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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Habash, Hawatimah Begin Amman Meeting

JN1809180390 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Dispatch by Randah Habib from Amman]

[Excerpt] A meeting of the Palestinian leadership began in Amman a short while ago. The meeting is chaired by Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and includes Nayif Hawatimah, secretary-general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Dr. George Habash, secretary-general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. An informed Palestinian source said that the Gulf crisis and the situation of Palestinians will be the major topics discussed by the Palestinian leadership. [passage omitted]

Habash Holds News Conference in Amman 18 Sep

JN1809134090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] held a news conference in Amman today in which he explained that the PFLP has no plans to move its permanent headquarters from Damascus to Baghdad. He pointed out that the office to be opened at the order of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is a new, additional office for the PFLP.

Habash said that the PLO will hasten to arrange integrated political activity among the nine countries that have stood by Iraq. Regarding reconciliation efforts between the PLO and Syria, George Habash said: For the time being, we cannot continue the issue of reconciliation between Syria and the PLO. But he expressed hope that the matter will be resumed if changes acceptable to the masses occur.

Habash added that the PFLP, which was expelled from Amman following the bloody events between the Jordanian Army and the Palestinians in 1970, is not considering opening an office in Jordan. He also said that he does not want to leave Damascus to reside elsewhere. He added: I will always return to Damascus until the Syrian authorities say to me: "You are not allowed to enter."

Warns of Backlash If Iraq Attacked

NC1809152290 Paris AFP in English 1450 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Amman, Sept 18 (AFP)—The PLO will mount a campaign to overthrow the leaders of Arab countries who sent troops to Saudi Arabia if Iraq comes under attack, a senior Palestinian official warned here Tuesday [18 September]. George Habash, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), said the Palestine Liberation Organisation had its "finger on the trigger" although it was also working for an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis.

"In case of an attack on Iraq, the PLO will issue a clear and frank call for Arab masses to overthrow the regimes that have sent troops alongside the U.S. invasion forces in Saudi Arabia," he told a press conference.

"We have a finger on the trigger and we will pull it the moment Baghdad or any other part of Iraqi territory is attacked," the PFLP chief said.

Egypt, Syria and Morocco are the Arab countries which have sent troops to Saudi Arabia, where more than 100,000 U.S. soldiers have been deployed to deter a possible Iraqi attack after the August 2 invasion of Kuwait. Mr. Habash said the PLO was working on a joint political plan "for the nine Arab countries that have supported Iraq" to find a solution to the crisis. He gave no details.

Algeria, Jordan, Libya, Mauritania, the PLO, Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen—apart from Iraq—did not vote in favour of a resolution adopted at an Arab summit in Cairo on August 10 to send troops to Saudi Arabia. The PFLP's base in Syria, a long-standing rival of Iraq, will not be moved to Baghdad, Mr. Habash told reporters, although an office was also being opened in the Iraqi capital.

"I will continue to travel to Damascus until I am barred. Syria is Arab and I have the right to travel everywhere in the Arab world," said the head of the PFLP, one of the main groups in the PLO. PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat arrived here Tuesday for a meeting with King Husayn, following talks in Baghdad with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Mr. 'Arafat, quoted by the Jordanian news agency PETRA, said he was "optimistic over an Arab political solution" to the Gulf crisis, despite what he called the "dangerous" statements of the U.S. Air Force chief of staff. General Mike Dugan was fired Monday for his blunt talk to reporters about contingency plans to target the Iraqi president and bomb Baghdad.

"These remarks prove that (for the Americans) it's not a case of defending an Arab country but of striking Baghdad and the Iraqi people, something which is extremely dangerous and which we should take into account," Mr. 'Arafat said.

Further on News Conference

JN1809164790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Amman, 18 (INA)—Dr. George Habash, secretary-general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has declared that "in case the United States and its allies commit an aggression against Iraq, our fingers will pull the trigger to open fire on the forces of aggression and enemy targets."

In a news conference, Habash affirmed that the PFLP will work within the framework of the PLO to instigate the Arab man on the street to topple the regimes that have allied themselves with the hostile forces and participated in the invasion forces.

Dr. Habash reiterated the PFLP's stand alongside Iraq in its pan-Arab battle against the foreign invasion and occupation of the Arab land. He said that his visit to Amman is to assert the PFLP's position at the Arab Popular Forces Conference and to declare solidarity with fraternal Iraq in confronting the U.S. and foreign troops in the Arab land.

He added: The Gulf crisis must be resolved within an Arab framework and within the one Arab family. He said that the PFLP insists on linking the Gulf crisis with the Palestine question so that the principles of international law will be implemented regarding all issues in the region without discrimination or selectivity.

He said legitimacy is an indivisible whole, explaining that if the United States is serious in its call to enforce this legitimacy, let it start doing it. But if it insists on enforcing international legitimacy on the Gulf crisis only, this would be a falsification of legitimacy.

The PFLP secretary-general condemned the United States, describing its history as being stained with the blood of peoples. He referred to the United States' use of nuclear bombs to strike at Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan, and its holding of thousands of U.S. citizens of Japanese origin as a shield against Japanese air raids.

He also condemned the attempts of the Western mass media to distort the facts and fabricate lies concerning Iraq and its leadership. He explained that, through meeting with President Saddam Husayn and Iraqi officials, he had the impression that Iraq is ready for an Arab solution, but the U.S. Administration's order to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to internationalize the crisis has aborted any Arab move or effort for a solution, escalated tension, and led to the massing of military concentrations. He said Mubarak also acted at the Cairo conference, whose resolutions were prepared in advance, to provide an Arab cover for the foreign invasion of Arab land in the Arabian peninsula and the Gulf, and the desecration of holy places.

Dr. Habash noted that the PFLP will work with the Arab states that rejected the Cairo summit resolutions and refused to internationalize the crisis in order to prevent the implementation of the objectives of U.S. colonialist hegemony and to confront it until it is defeated. He said the PFLP will cooperate with these states to secure victory for the Arab nation and to mobilize world public opinion to entrench the concepts of international legitimacy and implement its resolutions without bias.

He held the former Kuwaiti Government responsible for failing to respond to Iraq's legitimate demands, saying that that government had exerted pressure to bring down the price of oil in order to exhaust Iraq and destroy it economically and financially, which rendered it unable to meet its obligations in the repayment of debts.

At the end of the news conference, Dr. 'Abd-al-Mushin Hammudah, head of the Wafdist Vanguard Movement [harakat al-tali'ah al-wafdiyah], delivered a speech in which he affirmed the Egyptian opposition's support for Iraq and its fair cause. He also expressed the Egyptian opposition's condemnation of the foreign invasion of Arab land and the dispatch of foreign forces to the Gulf.

He explained that the Egyptian authorities had prevented opposition representatives from taking part in the Arab Popular Forces Conference in Amman because they were afraid that the opposition representatives would communicate to world public opinion the true position of the Egyptian masses rejecting the foreign presence and supporting Iraq.

He disclosed that authorities have killed and liquidated 37 Egyptian opposition activists over the past two months.

The head of the Wafdist Vanguard Movement said that the movement had filed a legal suit to annul the Egyptian president's decision to dispatch Egyptian forces to the Gulf because it is an unconstitutional decision, and because the existence of the president is unconstitutional as a decision has been made annulling the People's Assembly.

National Unified Command Issues Pro-Iraqi Call

LD1809215690 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Brothers! The Palestinian national unified command of the intifadah in the state of Palestine has issued the following call. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: call issued by the national unified command in the occupied State of Palestine:

To the masses of our Arab people; to all the progressive elements and fronts; to the organizations and public figures participating in the conference in support of Iraq against colonial and imperialist invasion and threats in the region:

From Jerusalem, Gaza, Nablus, and al-Khalil; and from all the occupied land, our Palestinian masses, the masses of the intifadah; of al-Qassam [after martyr Izz al-Din al-Qassam], Salahuddin, Abu-Jihad [Khalil Wazir] and Ghassan [Kanafani, a martyr], declare their firm stand on the side of fraternal Iraq, and on the side of the Arab peoples, to face up to the imperialist Zionist reactionary onslaught aimed at the security, progress, future, and life of the Arab peoples.

From their position of struggle, these masses declare that they are in the same position as the Arab peoples and all the peoples of the world in confronting the new, flagrant aggression perpetrated by U.S. imperialism against all the peoples of the earth. This U.S. imperialism is feverishly working to create a new world, in which this enemy of peoples might play a direct role in opposing the national and nationalist revival of the peoples of the earth, especially the Arab peoples.

The Palestinian masses and their nationalist forces in the occupied homeland see in the events of the Gulf and in the imperialist Zionist reactionary military buildup a repetition and prolongation of what is taking place on their own land. They realize the objectives of the buildup, that works to strike at the achievements of our Arab peoples, and to bring the region under a position of direct military control, in order to further plunder the resources of our Arab land.

Imperialism, as planned by the Zionist Kissinger, seeks to recover control over the Arab Gulf, the Red Sea, north Africa, and the eastern Mediterranean by reinforcing its direct presence and strengthening the reactionary Arab role, turning it into a regional military force that works in the service of imperialist interests. Imperialism is also endeavoring to reinforce the role and power of the Zionist entity, and to further arm it and equip it with experts, fresh material, and human means so as to complete the elements of the U.S. aggressive strategy in our Arab East.

From the position of a bloody and relentless struggle against the armies of Zionist occupation of our country, Palestine; on behalf of all the martyrs, prisoners, and wounded; and on behalf of every Palestinian stone and the stone-throwing Palestinian children; we address ourselves to the masses of the Arab nation, to their forces, parties, organizations, trade unions, and various associations, to their committed nationalist regimes and religious forces: We address ourselves to them with this important call whose words are written by us with the spirit of determination to attain victory and the realization of the freedom of our country and people.

We believe that the looming threat facing our peoples forces us to put forward our perception of the struggle, and the way of confronting the new imperialist military campaign.

The words of our masses, who have suffered damage from the events in the Gulf and who have been struggling against the most mighty and powerful Zionist settlement-based military arsenal in the Middle East—these words are the most true words. They come from the foundation of a commitment to the causes of our people and of Arab peoples, and the struggle of the peoples of all the world against the new world aggression that is seeking to regain control of the initiative at global level.

Brothers, comrades, our Arab masses. At a time when we declare our support for this first Arab popular gathering held in Amman, we urge the participants to adopt the following positions of the occupied homeland:

First: The masses of the Palestinian people; their nationalist forces, wounded children, and mothers, ask the Syrian regime to withdraw its forces from Saudi Arabia and put them on the borders of the struggle with the Zionist enemy if this regime does not want to use part of these forces in support of Iraq. For nationalism, pan-Arabism, progressivism, and religious laws cannot understand and explain the fact the the Syrian rifle stands on the side of the U.S.-Zionist rifle against the Arab Iraqi army, and against the Arab masses on the sacred land of Hijaz. We wonder: In the event of an outbreak of war, will Arab Syria stay outside the imperialist-Zionist aggression?

We also ask the Syrian regime to review its policies, to open its borders with Iraq, and to support Iraq by all means. We also ask this regime to contribute to the creating of an eastern front to help our people and our Arab peoples in the liberation battles.

Second: From the premise of condemnation of the positions of the Egyptian and Moroccan regimes, for their standing on the side of imperialism and Zionism by sending armies to help U.S. aggressiveness, we are urging the Arab masses in Egypt and Morocco, and their various organizations, to stop the conspiratorial farce and bring back the Arab armies from the Gulf.

We are also asking our Arab masses to declare a popular and official boycott of these two regimes, and to boycott them in order to force them to withdraw their armies from the imperialist position.

Third: The masses of the Arab land ask the Libyan and Algerian regimes to adopt firm stands with regard to the states taking part in the military buildup in the Gulf, and to work with all available means to penetrate the blockade imposed on our children and women in Iraq. We also ask them to stop oil deliveries to the arteries of the West and its military machines in order to drive it into more crises, and to send token armies and forces to the land of Iraq.

Fourth: We appreciate the role of our sole legitimate representative, the PLO, and the Arab national, nationalist, and progressive forces in setting up an Arab popular front to support the struggle of Iraq, to support the struggle of our Palestinian people and our Arab peoples against the big threats looming over the future of our Arab peoples, and to face up to the reactionary Arab lineup led by the Egyptian and Saudi regimes.

Fifth: We ask the Arab popular professional and trade unionist organizations to call for volunteers to help Iraq and serve its various installations, to supply it with qualitative potentials, and to lay down programs for the struggle to help Iraq in all domains and specialities.

We ask these organizations to confront imperialist interests; to boycott the goods of imperialist countries, centers, and installations; and to stop the loading, unloading, and receiving of imperialist airplanes and ships in our Arab harbors and airports.

Sixth: We ask the nationalist, pan-Arab and progressive forces to prepare for the holding of a popular march toward Iraqi territory, and we see a great interest in the setting up of pan-Arab committees in every Arab country on the basis of its specific position and conditions.

Seventh: We ask our Arab masses present in Western states and in various parts of the world to set up committees to help and support Iraq, and to prepare information-related and political programs and schemes that bolster the struggle of our Arab peoples.

Eighth: We ask the various Arab forces to agree on a day of general strike by all our Arab peoples, in which marches will be led toward the embassies, centers, and establishments of the states taking part in the aggression, and to burn the flags of these countries and send memos to United Nations bodies.

Ninth: We ask that a pan-Arab fund be set up on the basis of a clear program to support the pan-Arab effort.

Tenth: We in the occupied homeland believe that the Gulf events have reinforced the need for speaking loud, for democracy, for promoting national and pan-Arab programs, and for closely linking them.

These events also bring in new tasks that must be mastered, for people learn a lot in time of great events. The ensemble of Arab forces and movements are required to take on an overall stand in the face of the grave events.

We know that our peoples can bring matters under control and can confront the dangers of imperialism and its allies. The path of conscious popular pressure leads the imperialist entity into a higher stage of crisis.

Eleventh: We ask Arab women and their various unions and associations to play a distinguished and clear role in all their respective regions and countries, irrespective of their social differences. In this respect, the Palestinian women have been playing a distinguished and qualitative role in the struggle of our people.

This delicate stage requires the use of all the hidden potentials of Arab women.

Twelfth: We ask the religious forces in the various Arab countries to coordinate with national, pan-Arab, and progressive forces in all arenas to form a unified popular confrontation front.

We in the occupied homeland appreciate with high positiveness the position of the Iranian regime and the Iranian people, who have taken up a conscious moral and principled position with regard to the Western fleets and presence in the Gulf, which are aimed at them as well as at our Arab peoples.

We also highly appreciate the role of the Jordanian and Palestinian masses in Jordan, and are looking positively at the development of the positions of the Arab peoples and the increase in their open and direct support for the pan-Arab battle. We cannot be but with Iraq in its steadfastness and defiance of the biggest imperialist Zionist aggressive bloc.

We in the occupied homeland stand as one man behind the PLO in its daring pan-Arab position of struggle, and we stress the need to link the cause of the struggle of our people and the struggle of our Arab peoples. We support the Palestinian peace initiative, and also support the initiative of President Saddam Husayn in which he underlined the need for a Zionist withdrawal from Golan, Gaza, the West Bank, and southern Lebanon, and for working out an overall solution to the conflict in the region.

We urged the international community and the Arab peoples and their pan-Arab and national regimes to strengthen this linkage, and to emphasize the rights of our people to return [to Palestine] to self-determination, and to setting up an independent Palestinian state.

We also call for serious action to be taken in putting the occupied Palestinian lands under provisional United Nations control on the way to freedom and independence.

Imperialism, Zionism, and their agents have showed their aggressive objectives, and the facts about the conflict have become extremely clear. There is no room or path in front of us except the struggle to liberate the Arab lands and the Arab peoples, and to defeat the fleets, their objectives, and the hostile regionalist forces.

We are fully convinced that victory is for our people, for our struggling Arab people which stands firmly in the face of the aggressive scheme in all its forms.

The conflict has shown the importance of the Arab region and its ability to affect international politics. Let us direct all efforts to break the blockade against Iraq and support its struggle, and let all the nationalist efforts be united in the pan-Arab battle for freedom and democracy for the Arab peoples. Let all rifles be ready to confront our enemies, and let our emblem be: Homeland or death. Long live the PLO, and long live our Arab peoples and their struggling forces.

The national unified command of the intifadah of the state of Palestine.

'Arafat Calls on Sweden To Mediate Gulf Crisis

JN1809192490 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Palestinian President Brother Yasir 'Arafat has stressed that the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories is no less serious than what is taking place in the Gulf.

In a letter addressed to the Swedish prime minister and head of the Swedish Socialist Democratic Party on the occasion of the 31st conference of the party, he said that Israel, as an occupation authority, is exploiting the Gulf crisis in order to press ahead with its iron-fist policy away from international criticism, United Nation supervision, and international news media coverage. He added that the serious and volatile developments in the Middle East require Sweden to enhance its position in this respect since it enjoys great respect and appreciation by all parties concerned with the Gulf crisis. He called on the Swedish Government and the leaderhip of the Swedish Socialist Party to double their efforts in order to strengthen the peaceful option and the political solution and support peace in the region.

Salvation Front Leader Urges Iraqi Withdrawal

PM1909092490 London AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 14 Sep 90 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Khalid al-Fahum, Leader of the 'Palestinian Salvation Front,' Says: Iraq's Invasion of Kuwait Divided Arabs and Weakened Intifadah"—formerly Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI]

[Text] Damascus, AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI—Mr. Khalid al-Fahum, former leader of the Palestine National Council and leader of the "Palestinian Salvation Front," has emphasized that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has divided the Arabs into two different groups, obscured the Palestine issue, and weakened the intifadah. In his statement to AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI Mr. al-Fahum added that the people of the PLO do not support any Arab dispute and that they strive to strengthen Arab solidarity since this serves Palestine in the face of Zionism and Israel.

Al-Fahum expressed his hope that Iraq would withdraw from Kuwait in order to restore the Arab atmosphere to its previous status and restore the status and prestige of the Palestinian cause.

Regarding splits between the PLO groups' positions on the occupation of Kuwait, he said that there are views in the PLO leadership which have supported, and still support, Iraq in its occupation of Kuwait. Their position was made clear at the Arab League meetings, at the foreign ministers' conference and at the summit. He added: We believe that this has harmed the Palestinian cause and the Arab nation, and Iraq in particular. This is because it has divided Arab ranks, obscured the Palestinian issue, and eclipsed the Jewish emigration to Palestine.

Al-Fahum said: The damage caused by the invasion includes the fact that some 150,000 of the 400,000 Palestinians living in Kuwait left it without any money or income. These used to look after our kinfolk in the occupied territories. They are without any source of income. And what applies to the Palestinians applies to the Arabs in general.

Al-Fahum called on President Saddam Husayn to spare the Arabs another tragedy by withdrawing from Kuwait and restoring cordial relations between Iraq and Kuwait in order to strengthen Arab solidarity and boost the Palestinian cause and its heroic intifadah.

Al-Fahum expressed the hope that the crisis would be resolved peacefully with an Arab solution so that the foreign forces will leave Arab territory and the clouds will be dispelled from among the Arab ranks.

Asked whether any efforts are being made to unite the Palestinian groups' position on the Kuwaiti issue, al-Fahum said: We are seeking a unified position for all the groups of the Palestinian revolution and the PLO—a position based on the Iraqi withdrawal and resolving disputes through dialogue and peaceful means. He added: These attempts are still continuing at present and steps are being taken in that direction, though they have not yet borne fruit. But efforts are still continuing.

Comparison to PLO Statement on Gulf, Helsinki

LD1309193890

Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic at 1702 GMT on 13 September carries the "text" of the PLO executive committee statement issued "yesterday." The Algiers version has been compared to the Sanaa Voice of Palestine version published in the 14 September Near East and South Asia DAILY REPORT, pp 1-2, revealing the following additions and variations:

Page one, column two, paragraph two, sentence two reads:...requisite for advancing this attitude toward the new world... (supplying indistinct words).

Page two, column one, first incomplete paragraph, first incomplete sentence reads:...house from collapsing. The current developments in international understanding to eliminate the Gulf crisis and to establish a link between a solution to the Gulf crisis and the Mideast and Palestinian problems, and to convene an international peace conference, make us all the more convinced that we must stick to our line based on ensuring the security, sovereignty... (supplying indistinct words, rewording).

Algeria

Bendjedid Receives MDA, PSD Leaders

LD1809111790 Algiers APS in English 1007 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Algiers, 18 Sept (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid audienced Monday [17 September] here the chairman of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria (MDA), Mohamed Seghir Nekkache, and the chairman of the Social Democratic Party (PSD), Abderrahmane Adjerid.

These meetings fall in the frame of a resumption of dialogue between the head of state and representatives of political formations around the great questions concerning the national and international life. This dialogue is aimed at reaching a national consensus in order to reinforce the process of democratization mainly in prospect of the legislative elections.

In this context, the president of the Republic underlined the necessity to gather conditions for a good carrying out of the vote for an authentic expression of the popular will.

Moreover, the head of state informed the representatives of the MDA and PSD on the position of Algeria on the main international topical problems such as the process of edification of the Arab Maghreb and the Gulf crisis as well as the initiatives that have been taken or that will be taken by Algeria in order to reach a solution to this conflict.

Following this audience, Adjerid (PSD) said that "we have given our point of view on electoral law. We have proposed a new procedure for these elections as well as means to be implemented to guarantee their success".

Nekkache (MDA) expressed his satisfaction about the return of his party on the national scene and affirmed that "there will be something new with the return to Algeria of the leader for the MDA, Ahmed Ben Bella. We have perceived during our meeting with the president of the republic, his will for the defence and the implementation of democracy". Concerning the Gulf crisis, Nekkache said "The Algerian people can not abandon Iraq and the foreign intervention is only an attempt to enslave the peoples of the area".

RCD Official Comments on Talks With Bendjedid

LD1809225590 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Excerpt] President Chadli Bendjedid today received Mr. Said Saadi, secretary-general of the Rally for Culture and Democracy Party [RCD], who made the following remarks to newsmen after the audience:

[Begin Saadi recording] This meeting came at a difficult moment, marked by internal and foreign problems, especially the Gulf issue, which requires a dialogue between Algerians. As far as we are concerned, we say that regarding foreign policy, all Algerians should speak the same language. In matters of foreign policy it is important that the sovereignty of the Algerian state be assured. Political parties are not sovereign, neither in order to be mediators nor to settle this type of conflict. Political parties are there to help, with other parties or with other persons, in finding a solution to this type of conflict. But sovereignty belongs to the Algerian state.

On the other hand, we discussed problems of the Maghreb union, what to do for this Maghreb to be built. We also debated problems currently posed in the south of our country, with the Djanet summit. Naturally, we spoke about domestic policy: We touched upon problems of economic policy and we conveyed to the head of state the preoccupation of a certain number of cadres of the public sector who think that perhaps more attention should be devoted to the state sector, and to the time to develop the private sector's possibilities so as not to fall into a bazaar economy. Algeria can produce things other than this sort of artificial economy.

We also spoke about our preoccupations concerning issues of infringements against liberties, and the authority of the state in Algeria.

We had a very frank and free discussion, and the echo was very favorable. I think that this is good for democracy. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Cabinet Views Electoral Law Reform, Customs

LD1809111890 Algiers APS in English 1023 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Algiers, 18 Sept (APS)—The Council of Government which met Monday [17 September] here under the chairmanship of the head of government, Mouloud Hamrouche, examined a number of questions mainly a briefing on the recent visits of the head of government and other members of the government inside the country, proposals for the changes to be introduced to the electoral law as well as the reorganization of the Customs Department.

The visits inside the country showed slowness and difficulties in the implementation of the various action programs and to organize direct communication with citizens who expressed their concerns and aspirations.

In light of these constatations [as received], the Council undertook a series of short and mid term measures in various fields for the improvement of the functioning of administration, education, training, youth employment, agriculture, construction of houses and the supply of water and consumer goods.

The Council of Government also listened to a communication related to the main axes of modifications to be brought to the electoral law in light of recent experience and the debates it aroused in the [public] opinion in general and the political parties in particular.

In this context, the way of voting, the modalities of the exercise of the right of vote, the justification of identity of the elector, the question of vote by procuration, as well as the financing and carrying out of the electoral campaign, have been tackled.

The other point examined by the Council of Ministers was the reorganization of the Customs Administration in conformity with the new economic orientation of the country.

Madani Praises Government Position on Crisis

LD1809222890 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] At the Presidency of the Republic, President Chadli Bendjedid today received Mr. Abbassi Madani, chairman and spokesman of the Islamic Salvation Front. After this meeting, Mr. Abbassi Madani made the following statement:

[Begin Madani recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Prayers and blessings of God be upon the noble prophet of God. The encounter was useful. We have dealt with the most important internal issues that interest the Algerian people in various sensitive domains. The dialogue was marked by the desire for harmony.

This is, God willing, an encouraging initiative. We have also covered the problem of the hour: the situation in the Arab Gulf. In this respect, the Algerian move is conscious, balanced, just, seeking good for the Arab and Islamic nation, and for all mankind, just as it is seeking good in the country, i.e in Algeria, God willing. [end recording]

Egypt

Mubarak Agrees to U.S. Alliance 'in Principle'

JN1809194490 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Sep 90 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Husayn]

[Text] President Mubarak has agreed in principle on Egypt's joining the American alliance to be formed in the Middle East. The alliance, which will be led by the United States will comprise Egypt, Turkey, the Arabian Gulf states, Morocco, and Israel. AL-SHA'B learned that President Mubarak asked U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, during his visit to Cairo last Saturday [8 September], to postpone the announcement on the agreement and its terms until after ending the Gulf crisis. The president held a telephone conversation with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and they agreed on this opinion.

Sources said that Baker presented, during his visit to Cairo, the general outlines of the American plan. The plan includes the formation of special forces from America's friends in the region under a unified command. An agreement will be reached on the formation of this command to safeguard security and stability in the region after the current crisis has ended. The sources described the new alliance as a step to redraw the map of the region, particularly since Baker offered military and economic support to make this alliance a success.

Regarding the course of the crisis in the Gulf, the U.S. secretary asked Egypt to cooperate with Washington in imposing an aerial blockade on Iraq after the Gulf states complained of the ineffectiveness of the blockade and asked America for tougher measures.

In another development, Baker hinted in his statement after his meeting with Mubarak at the difficulties that will face the U.S. Government with regard to the cancellation of Egypt's military debts. The sources attributed the U.S. Government's hesitation on this step to pressures by Israel through the Zionist lobby under the pretext that the cancellation of Egypt's debts requires the adoption of the same measure with Israel, Turkey, and Poland because they played a role that is equivalent to the Egyptian role in the crisis. And this matter requires a change in American legislation with regard to aid.

Seeks Support for Own Proposal

PM1809100890 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 13 Sep 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Egyptian Reservations Regarding U.S. Security System Proposal"]

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that President Husni Mubarak told U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during their recent talks in Cairo that the United States should support the Egyptian proposal that the Middle East region be made a zone free of nuclear and mass destruction weapons once the Gulf crisis is over and once the Iraqi forces have withdrawn from Kuwait.

Sources have confirmed that President Mubarak told Baker that the Egyptian proposal aims to maintain stability in the region and to prevent a repetition of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, instead of making security arrangements and setting up a new security system by foreign and Arab parties.

The sources said that Baker did not discuss details of the regional security order proposed by the United States with the leaders of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Egypt during his recent tour of these states. The discussions did not cover the states tipped to join the new order or the size of forces, military bases, and facilities to be provided by states in the region.

U.S. Security Structure Ideas Prompt 'Concern'

PM1809155290 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 12 Sep 90 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "Serious REUTER Report on New Security System in Middle East"]

[Excerpts] REUTER yesterday said that the U.S. ideas about establishing a security structure in the Middle East region have sounded an alarm in Egypt and prompted concern. The agency's report said that for 40 years Egypt has led the opposition in the Arab world to the formation of military alliances with foreign powers. The report also cites Egypt's struggle for neutrality and independence during that time, despite the existence of strong and cordial relations with the United States. Wafd Party Secretary General Ibrahim Faraj emphasized to the agency's reporter the party's steadfast and principled position in the past, present, and future. It rejects foreign military alliances in the Middle East region. Ibrahim Faraj emphasized that the Wafd Party does not believe that there is any need to establish a foreign defense system in the region. Ibrahim Faraj described the joint Arab defense pact as the best and most appropriate Arab regional defense framework. He also pointed out that the pact can be developed so as to meet current requirements in view of the present crisis in the Gulf. [passage omitted]

Egyptian sources experienced in foreign policy described Baker's ideas as "a revised outlook and a new version of the Eisenhower plan." Former U.S. President Dwight called for the establishment of the Baghdad pact in the fifties to encircle the Soviet Union and communism. The sources emphasized that the United States benefited from its mistakes in calling for the Baghdad pact. It learned a lesson from the Eisenhower principle, which emerged in 1957 to fill the vacuum resulting from the liquidation of imperialism. This is why it is now anxious to legitimize [taqnin] its presence and not to provoke Arab feelings. The sources also emphasized that the potential new security system would enjoy some Arab states' approval. The REUTER report pointed out that the Egyptian people are always proud of their country's nonparticipation in foreign alliances and refusal to establish foreign bases on Egyptian territory. The sources warned against Egypt's joining any alliances led by the United States. They said that the decision to do so would be "one of the biggest mistakes Egypt has ever made." [passage omitted]

Arab diplomatic sources have emphasized that Egypt would lose much of what it achieved when it rushed to Saudi Arabia's aid if it became involved in an alliance led by the United States. The REUTER report says that foreign alliances have always been a taboo for most Arab peoples, especially the Egyptian people, even before 1952. The report also says that some Egyptians feel that Egypt could emerge as a regional leader if the proposed alliance is established, thus reducing U.S. reliance on Israel.

Party To Hit U.S. Interests If Iraq Attacked

JN1809202290 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
11 Sep 90 p 1

[Report by Salah Budaywi]

[Text] Farid 'Abd-al-Karim, representative of the founders of the Socialist Arab Nasirite Party [al-hizb al-ishtiraki al-'arabi al-nasiri], which is being founded, has announced that the current stage calls on all honest forces—Arab and Islamic—to be united for the jihad against the American and Zionist occupation of Arab territory in Palestine and the Gulf as well as in support of the people of Iraq in confronting the Zionists and Americans. He noted that the Nasirite Party is currently studying the final formula for an alliance with the Labor Party and other honest forces. He noted that the obstacles to the Nasirists' alliance with the Islamic current can be frozen under the current circumstances in order to confront the danger threatening the entire Arab and Islamic nation.

In last Tuesday's [4 September] seminar held by the party to confront current events, Farid 'Abd-al-Karim said that if America strikes at Iraq, we will be called on to form popular suicide teams to pursue and strike at American interests.

Radio Reports Opposition to Shevardnadze Proposal

JN1809143190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Dispatch by Mustafa Bakri from Cairo]

[Text] Egypt has informed the Soviet Union of its opposition to the international peace conference that was proposed by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to discuss the Gulf crisis and other problems in the region. The Soviet Foreign Ministry had requested Egypt, through diplomatic channels, to define its position on the Soviet call. Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources have said that Cairo informed the Soviet Union that it has no objection to convening the proposed international peace conference, but stressed the need for securing the necessary elements for the success of the conference. These elements include: First, Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and discussion of outstanding issues between Iraq and Kuwait during the conference. Second, the readiness of all the region's states, including Israel, to discuss ways to remove weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East. For this purpose, these states should inform the Soviet Union of their initial agreements. Third, discussing ways to end the Arab-Israeli conflict through preliminary talks to be held with Israel by the Soviet Union and the United States in order to explore Israel's real intentions about peace and security in the region.

The Egyptian reply stresses that the absence of these elements of success of the conference will disappoint everyone and will increase political and military instability in the region.

Forces Arrive in Gulf; Belgian Security Plan

JN1809191790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Dispatch by Mustafa Bakri from Cairo]

[Text] It has been learned in Cairo that the new Egyptian troops sent to Saudi Arabia and some other Gulf countries have today begun to arrive with their heavy equipment in the Gulf. Earlier reports indicated that the force comprises 15,000 soldiers equipped with armor and other heavy weapons. The dispatch of new troops came in the wake of President Mubarak's announcement in a recent news conference with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that his country is ready to send more troops to defend Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

Meanwhile, sources at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry told our radio that the Belgian defense minister presented during his meeting with President Mubarak yesterday a Belgian plan to hold a security and cooperation conference among the region's states. The points of this plan include:

1. The conference should be held under the supervision of the UN Security Council to discuss the possibility of eliminating weapons of mass destruction and other weapons threatening the security of other neighboring countries in the region.

2. Because it possesses nuclear weapons, Israel should join the conference at a later stage. The purpose of this late participation is to allow the formation of a unified Arab position on security requirements to be discussed with Israel.

3. The conference should settle some of the territorial disputes between neighboring countries. However, it should not touch on the border problems between Israel and its Arab neighbors because of the complexity of this problem, which can be discussed within an independent framework and through a different Arab and international approach.

4. If these problems are settled, new security agreements can be concluded or existing ones renewed until border stability prevails in the region.

5. When conflicting viewpoints emerge between neighboring countries and the conference fails to resolve them, the talks can continue through international parties and the countries in dispute until the differences are resolved.

6. Agreements of cooperation and real economic, political, and military coexistence should be concluded with a view to bolstering the role of the region in the face of regional and international challenges.

SLP Statement on Gulf Urges Arab Solution

*JN1909063490 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
4 Sep 90 p 3*

[Statement No. 2 issued by the Socialist Labor Party on the Gulf crisis—place and date not given]

[Text] The leaders of the Socialist Labor Party [SLP] have been holding meetings since the eruption of the Gulf crisis and the SLP has been issuing statements right from the beginning of the crisis. It issued a statement on 5 August 1990 to define its principled positions based on Islamic fundamentals, which guide our steps toward the settlement of disputes within Islamic ranks and which also warn us against inviting the enemies of our religion to carry out that duty, especially using armies to settle disputes. On these bases, the SLP has always been the first throughout its history to launch initiatives to bridge the gap and unify the word of the Arabs and Muslims against the nation's enemies.

In light of this, the SLP issued a statement on the first day of the Gulf crisis condemning Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and its occupation of Kuwaiti territories. In this first statement, the SLP urged the Arab and Islamic countries to quickly contain the crisis and find a way out of it to prevent foreign interference, whose signs appeared at that time. The SLP's position has been crystallized in two main principles:

The first principle: Total rejection of the use of armed force to solve differences and annex territories. Hence, we totally reject Iraq's invasion of Kuwait as well as the consequences of that invasion, and we demand an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the pre-invasion situation in that fraternal country.

The second principle: A total rejection of the foreign presence in general, and the U.S. presence in particular, on any Arab or Islamic land. Hence, we stress the need for the foreign forces to withdraw from the Gulf region within the framework of a peaceful settlement to guarantee the rights of all parties, enable Kuwait to regain its territories, and reassure Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states about their security through Arab agreements that can deal with the roots of the economic, oil, and border problems in the region and that can be protected and implemented by Arab and Islamic forces.

Events have accelerated over the past weeks, and the SLP Executive Committee noticed, during its recent meeting on Friday 10 Safar 1411, corresponding to 31 August 1990, under the chairmanship of Ibrahim Shukri, that developments are approaching a just Islamic peaceful settlement. We must hold on to this opportunity. We mean that a sort of a balance of power has arisen in the Gulf region. The military forces, which were massed under the cover of defending Saudi Arabia, are enough to reassure the Gulf states that their interests and security can be defended. At the same time, the Iraqi might can reply to any aggression, which will be a very costly adventure.

When war becomes an unnecessary disaster, there occurs an opportunity for mediation to save the parties in the dispute from their intransigence and extreme demands. This new position has been reflected by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's move supported by many international and Arab sides seeking moderation in dealing with the crisis in order to avert the specter of a comprehensive disaster and destruction.

The SLP believes that the Islamic and Arab states should move quickly in this direction. As some Arab countries are exerting real efforts to begin mediation, we hope that Egypt will use all its weight to achieve that goal. The SLP also believes that President Mubarak's statements indicate an eagerness to reach a peaceful solution. However, we hope that this intention will be translated into an integrated move. The Egyptian mediation plan should start with a change in its official media policy that contributes to widening the gap among the Arab and Muslim masses. The official media policy not only attacks the policies it deems wrong but also levels accusations and insults against the Arab leaderships which disagree with it. These media also attack many Arab peoples and mobilize hatred against them, especially against the Palestinian people who stand on the first confrontation line with the Zionists. This policy will open wounds which only God knows when can be healed.

We should always bear in mind that although they seem big, our differences are transient because the Islamic nation is one nation, and he who seeks to foment sedition among Muslims is sinful. Kings and presidents, regardless of how great they may be, will not live forever. So, what is the guilt of future generations that they should inherit bitterness and unnecessary bloody revenge? As for the popular forces, we have inside and outside Egypt the ability to influence the current situation and to push it toward a just settlement. We can pressure the United States to prevent it from igniting the war and foil its plans to exploit the current crisis, and in fact exploit the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait as a pretext to strike at the Iraqi Army and its precious equipment. The United States still insists on depriving the Arabs of any opportunity to possess missiles that would protect them from Israel, which is being supplied by the United States with Star Wars capabilities, satellites, and atomic bombs. The United States must know that differences between us and the Iraqi leadership and its stands do not at all mean that a single Arab would forgive it should it ignite the war to deal a blow to the Iraqi people and army. The United States should know that its involvement in this stupid aggression will inflame this region against its interests and presence. We believe that this warning is a mighty deterrent weapon in the hands of the Arab masses that would contribute to stopping the possibilities of war and to opening the doors to dialogue.

The SLP believes that the unofficial Arab and Islamic institutions can, under the current circumstances, put forward popular diplomatic initiatives to put pressure on the Arab parties to the conflict and embarrass them in order to force them to accept a just solution. We beseech almighty God to grant us success. Since the first day of the crisis, the SLP has adopted a centrist stand that differs with the Iraqi and the Gulf [states'] stands. Since the first day, we have announced our opposition to the Iraqi forces' invasion of Kuwait, and consequently, to the measures and consequences of this invasion. We have said that it is unjust to call on Iraq only to redress its stands, as if the entire Arab situation was correct and acceptable before the occurrence of the aggression. The inter-Arab relations include many grievances. Therefore, a just settlement should tackle all aspects of the current crisis in order to be acceptable to all sides and to achieve stability in the future and prevent the recurrence of frictions.

The intransigent stands of the parties to the conflict necessitate that the forces seeking to reach a solution pressure the two parties to the conflict to force them to accept a settlement within an Arab framework. We note here that the United States is trying, by all means, to encourage these intransigent stands to obstruct any efforts to reach a solution.

In the past stage, it was impossible to change the extremist stand of the United States because its assessments were based on a lightning war, and consequently it could impose all its conditions. Now, after it has been proven that a total war is almost impossible, then searching for other solutions and showing flexibility have become, as we have said, possible. We should exert our efforts in this direction. The exclusion of the military option does not mean that the other option is an easy one because this road is also difficult and full of traps and mines. Our nation's enemies will not stop their intrigues and conspiracies. If they find that a certain road is blocked before them, they will open another one. So, we have to be patient and vigilant.

While beseeching almighty God to grant us success, the SLP aspires to the future, having confidence in the victory God promised to grant believers. The current stage constitutes a landmark in the history of the Arab nation and the world. In all cases, our nation will emerge from this crisis with stronger faith in its Arab and Islamic identity, more aware of its objectives of awakening and unity, and more cohesive in the face of the outside enemies. The sons of the Islamic movement and all the nationalist forces must prepare themselves for the tasks of the glorious future. God is Great, God is Great, and Long Live the People.

Union Federation Lodges Complaint Against Iraq

NC1809130090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] The Egyptian Trade Unions Federation [ETUF] has decided to lodge a complaint with the competent international organizations against Iraq because it is forcing Egyptian workers there to volunteer for the Iraqi army. In a statement today, ETUF Chairman Amad al-'Ammawi said he received information that the Iraqi authorities are forcing Egyptian workers to join the Iraqi army under duress. He said that this runs counter to international norms and laws.

Meanwhile, the ETUF has decided to freeze the activities of the Egyptian workers bureau in Baghdad. Al-'Ammawi said that the head of the bureau sent a cable to ETUF stating that the Iraqi authorities are forcing Egyptian workers to join street demonstrations supporting the Iraqi regime.

Tunisia, PLO Assailed Over League Relocation

JN1909094890 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 13 Sep 90 p 16

["Dividing Lines" feature by Samir Rajab: "How can Tunis maintain the Arab League while it is incapable of maintaning its own people? Those who compare themselves with Egypt do not know the simplest laws of arithmetic. It is enough that the Arab League is coming back to Cairo while the Arabs have reached an unprecedented state of fragmentation and separation! There was a chance for those who were involved to rectify their positions, but... Saddam's law will not be the prevalent one. There must be respect for the law under the pressures of the circumstances!"]

[Text] Are not those who planned and schemed to prevent the return of the Arab League Secretariat headquarters to Cairo hiding in shame?

Has the time not come for them to learn from experience and realize that they are still small if they compare themselves with great Egypt?

Why can they not be honest with themselves and their people and announce clearly and frankly that they still have a long way before them, a very long way, before they can get anywhere near Egypt's civilized thinking.

Praise be to God that the Arab League is returning to Egypt at a time when the Arabs have reached an unprecedented state of fragmentation and conflict. It is enough that the Tunisian brothers buried the Arab League from the first day it got there. That was because they are limited in their experience and not knowledgeable on diplomatic action. All they do is open the doors of their country to whoever pays more.

The Tunisians sold their principles at the lowest price possible when they jumped on the wagon of Saddam Husayn, who used both legitimate and illegitimate means to help him realize his sick goals, especially since President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali had previously told me at his presidency headquarters in Tunis that he will be very happy with any decision the Arabs agree upon regarding the General Secretariat.

The Arabs have issued their resolution to restore affairs to their correct form. So why does President Zine look so sad and forlorn?

Is it because Saddam's glittering promises made him forget the reality of the situation and he was deluded into thinking that the Arab League could continue to be the prisoner of the purely personal interests which joined the Levantine Arab to the Maghreb Arab, as the saying goes.

Irrespective of the nature of these promises, President Zine should not have declared before the world such a naive opinion in which he announced on his part the nonimplementation of the last Arab League Council's decision which stipulated that the mistake should be rectified by taking the appropriate measures to return the headquarters to their original, natural, and legal location.

Undoubtedly, President Zine received orders not to recognize the legitimate resolution from President Saddam Husayn who has become an example of those violating international treaties, charters, and laws. He then arrived at the stage where he imagined that the world is incapable of affecting him in any way.

However, what the Iraqi and Tunisian presidents must remember well is that Egypt never sought to bring back the Arab League. It left the final and conclusive decision up to the Arabs. And as long as the Arabs have taken their decision, it must be implemented, whether or not this is to the liking of Zine El Abidine, Saddam, or others in the company of personal interests of those who believe that if the General Secretariat stays in Tunis, it could help Iraq continue robbing the Kuwaiti people of their rights and stealing their resources and properties.

As developments unfold, it becomes increasingly clear that the members of this company are bent on blocking the relocation of the Arab League to its original headquarters, with Saddam Husayn winning them over to his side by playing on their respective weaknesses. Sadly, they drifted behind him, their calculations having been proven wrong. Egypt had no difficulty recognizing this irregular behavior right from the start and confronted them, but they chickened out and began coming up with flimsy excuses and pretexts!!

With Tunisia making the claim that it is in the interests of the Arab League itself that it is determined to keep it on its soil, it is in order to ask: Since when has Tunisia been able to protect its own people for it to be able to protect the Arab League? The Tunisian people are torn by conflicting Arab and European inclinations, and the Tunisian Government is either apathetic or just impotent!!

The Tunisian Government has brushed aside Arab tradition and Islamic values by way of opening a narrow window for its people to help them cope. How, under the circumstances, can it be so presumptuous as to profess concern for the Arab League—an organization that is supposed to be underpinned by values, tradition, ideals, and religious tenets??! If Tunisia was "prompted" to make these silly allegations—as indeed it was—it might as well have reckoned how they would go down with millions of Arabs.

As for the PLO's cautioning against the return of the Arab League headquarters to Cairo, this organization has, unarguably, trodden on all values of justice and morality to promote the interests of only one person!!!

I hate to tell the PLO it might have stood by the children of the stones who are now bereft of supporters, save for God, and tried to foil Israel's plans to expand its settlement program. Better still, the PLO might have initiated preparations for the recovery of Palestine. Such a proposition, though, is now out of the question and evokes nothing more than ridicule.

It is disgraceful to see the PLO warning against moving the League headquarters back to Cairo, as if the central issue at hand now is to massage Saddam Husayn's ego so he may give reign to his ambitions.

I would have thought that the decision to return the Arab League to its permanent headquarters would have provided an opening for those who voted its removal from Cairo to recant. But, if they are bent on exacerbating the differences and widening the gap, they will have to take the consequences!!

If the members of this company imagine that their disgraceful conduct will rob Egypt of an advantage, I would tell them they are only indulging in self-delusion. In the ten years the Arab League headquarters have been absent from Cairo, Egypt's international standing has not suffered. Nor has its voice grown weaker or its role diminished. Which cannot be said of Tunisia, where the Arab League was moved. It has remained just as it had been before the move—a small state with limited leverage that has left no mark on joint Arab action, and never will!!

Meanwhile, Egypt is entitled to teach those who have gone out of control a lesson its own way—by denying them the product of its brain, intellect, art, and culture. Indeed, Egypt would still be doing the right thing if it denied them admission to its universities that must take the credit for the fact that these people exist at all. There will surely come a time to separate the sheep from the goats!!

Cairo Paper Views Mideast Balance of Power

*PM1809105290 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
12 Sep 90 p 5*

[Article by Dr. Rif'at Laqqushah: "Gulf Crisis: Questions And Answers"]

[Text] Events are continuing in the Gulf and remain hot, but it would be wise for us to observe them calmly to avoid making erroneous analyses or assessments. In a previous article I said that there is an Asian game in which the strings are controlled from there, and that the matter has transcended the traditional concept of pan-Arab security, since the events are taking us into new conceptual areas.

The question now is this: Is there a possibility of a military confrontation in the Gulf? In seeking an answer, I would say that I believe this possibility is very meager. This is because the United States does not want it, nor can it bear its implications. Nevertheless, I think that President Saddam Husayn spared President Bush the effort of finding an excuse by putting foreign nationals inside Iraqi military institutions as suicide hostages. President Bush can cite humanitarian reasons to justify his decision to postpone military action. The urgent question is this: What does the United States want? In seeking an answer I would say: At the media level, the United States wants to exercise the rites of the myth of power. Aircraft move to the operations zone and fleets head for the region, while the U.S. President makes statements, issues threats, smiles, goes fishing, and then meets with the National Security Council. All this takes place in front of television cameras, watched by all those who believe in the myth—though to be honest, I am not one of them.

I acknowledge that the United States is the world's foremost power, but not the only power. Washington's man is maybe the first man in the world, but he is not the emperor of Rome in the Roman era. And the United States, with all its might, is not the linchpin of the new world order, since that order is engineered and constructed in a way that cannot tolerate the existence of any linchpin. This is an accurate explanation of the principle of mutual reliance in international relations.

U.S. might is probable rather than certain. If, for argument's sake, we assume—and this will prove justifiable one day—that the international community decides to stop dealing in dollars as the principal currency for currency reserves and international transactions, the entire U.S. economy would be tragically exposed. The United States is the world's greatest debtor state. As former President de Gaulle put it, it has a machine which prints millions of dollars which other people accept. I mean to say that the shadow of U.S. might is greater than its reality. And it is not wise to deal with the shadow and ignore the reality.

While the United States wants to safeguard the power myth through the media, strategically it wants to achieve the establishment of a balanced order at the Gulf gate. This order falls directly within its sphere of responsibility, by virtue of the authority which it acquired under the Yalta Treaty.

The question now is this: What is the new balanced order? I think that the answer cannot ignore the facts of the situation, most notably the following:

First, Iraq is a besieged land force. It has no sea outlets apart from a narrow outlet to the Gulf. Adjacent to its northern border lies Turkey, where the source of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers are situated. It represents a constant threat to it with regard to its water supplies. On its eastern border lies Iran, which is situated close to the Tigris basin and the Euphrates basin, on which Iraq's agriculture is centered. Geopolitically, Iraq is not just a besieged land force, but an exposed land force as well. Its water and oil resources are under direct threat from Turkey, and its agricultural resources are within range of Iranian guns.

Second, Iraq's geopolitical position has forced it to obstruct any Turkish-Iranian coordination. This has always been the top political priority. So Iraq has been preoccupied with the Asian question more than any other Arab state.

Third, Iraq's geopolitical position prompted it to choose one of two options: comprehensive relations with Syria, or comprehensive relations with Jordan. But political factors ruled out the first option, leaving only one option, the second, which can be summed up as follows: Jordan has become the front line on the Iraqi front, and Iraq has become the rear line on the Jordanian front.

Fourth, the comprehensive relations between Iraq and Jordan, the geographical contact between Jordan and Israel, and the development of the concept of the Middle East in its new Asian dimensions have together brought about a regional formula in which the Iraqi side and the Israeli side are interlinked and mutually attracted.

Fifth, the region of the Gulf and the Arab Peninsula is no longer closed but, rather, a region open to all conflicts and tendencies. It has become an integral part of Asian balances of power in the Middle East.

In view of all these factors, the balanced order will only be a balance of armaments—and I would not say "an equal balance of armaments." The United States is now being urged to define this order.

Then the next question emerges: What is the procedure for establishing this order? I think—and this is my personal assessment—that there must be arms negotiations between Iraq and Israel via the U.S. intermediary. Iraq has chemical weapons, some people claim that it also has biological weapons, and Israel has nuclear weapons. So if arms negotiations begin between the two sides to reduce their level of armament, negotiations would lead to two results:

A—International recognition of regional privileges for both Iraq and Israel.

B—Building the objective foundation of a Middle Eastern commonwealth comprising Iraq, India, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, and Israel. This commonwealth would not be a new version of the Baghdad pact, nor would it take orders from Washington. It is an attempt to pool influential Asian elements in the Middle East into an internationally-governed regional system.

But the question again arises: What about Kuwait? In my opinion, there is a scenario ready for action and only waiting for the clapper board. The scenario begins with a general referendum in Kuwait over the annexation with Iraq or independence from it, and the establishment of a new political system. Then—with Iraq's approval—there emerges a result in favor of the second option. Then a new regime would be formed in Kuwait—a regime that accepts a special relationship with Iraq with regional and international guarantees. That scenario would coincide on the one hand with the start of arms negotiations and on the other with preparations for political solutions to certain Asian issues, such as the Kashmir question. This is in preparation for broaching the idea of the Middle Eastern commonwealth and translating it into reality.

This brings us to another question: Where do the international parties fit into all this? The Soviet Union will accept the commonwealth idea; it would help it in the pursuit of its Asian policies and alleviate some of its burdens. Moreover, I believe that the Soviet Union will substantially support Iraq's military capability in the period ahead, in the hope of securing further concessions from Israel in arms negotiations. Nuclear capability represents a worrying headache for Moscow since Israeli missiles are installed near the USSR's southern border. Israeli military assets have a twofold significance in international disarmament calculations. While they are added to NATO's might, they are not subject to mutual reductions between the Warsaw Pact and NATO forces. So regional arms negotiations grant the Soviets a favorable opportunity to reschedule Israel's power as one of the items subject to reduction.

I believe that France will not oppose the commonwealth idea. But it will not grant it absolute support since the commonwealth comprises only one party which has special relations with France, namely, Iraq. And the commonwealth will perpetuate the Arab world's division into an African wing and Asian wing. France has its vital interests in both wings, and the merger between them would help it to build a fixed and long-term strategy in the Middle East. Its need for that strategy exceeds the need of all the other major international powers, since it is the only Mediterranean power among them.

Thus we find ourselves facing the pressing question: What does the recent Arab summit reflect?

The most important thing that we noted about the conference is that all the African Arab states abstained, by rejecting or voicing reservation about the summit's resolution. That is, apart from Egypt and Morocco. And Egypt's position is known. As for Morocco, it sent its prime minister, but its king did not come. It voted for the resolution, then consumed the time discussing it. The abstention of most of the African Arab states, in my view, reflects what lies between the lines. It gives the impression that the crisis is in essence an Asian one, that there is no need to involve African parties in it, and that some parties heeded France's advice not to vote in favor so that Iraq would continue to enjoy Arab support that would help it to free itself from commonwealth commitments later, should circumstances require it.

All these questions and answers bring us to the final question: What about Egypt? Fine. Let us be frank with ourselves, even if such frankness causes great pain: The balance of power is not in our favor. In fact the estimated inequality of the balance is deteriorating and moving us further away from the center of influence. We will not be a party to the arms negotiations so we will not have any privileges. Nor will we be a candidate member of the Middle Eastern commonwealth. So we will not have any rights. The parties to the Asian game exclude us as an

African state. And the African states are rebelling against our will. Events are continuing, and the most dangerous thing about them is that Egypt's strategic security is now threatened. Whatever direction events may take, I have said it before and I say it again: The Egyptian home needs to reorganize its affairs from within, or else...!!!

Libya

Minutes of Yugoslav Coordination Agreement Signed

LD1809122190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1035 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Sep (JANA)—This morning in Tripoli the minutes of the meeting of the 11th session of the joint Libyan Arab-Yugoslav committee on economic, scientific, and technical cooperation were signed by the great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The agreement was signed by the brother secretary of the General People's committee for the treasury and by Steven Santo, Federal secretary for energy and industry.

The minutes of the agreement call for strengthening cooperation in the economic fields, light industries, and communications, and strengthening cooperation in the scientific, technical, and information field so that the march of cooperation between the friendly states may be strengthened.

Morocco

Bendjedid, King Husayn To Visit Morocco

LD1909075290 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] At the invitation of His Majesty King Hassan II, may God give him victory, His Majesty King Husayn, monarch of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, will be arriving in Rabat later today for consultation on the current situation in the Arab world.

Sudan

Iraqi Squadron Said Moved to Border With Egypt

PM1909105590 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 15 Sep 90 p 1

[Report by Sa'idah Ramadan: "Sudan Moves Iraqi Aircraft to Halfa-Aswan Border"]

[Text] Informed Sudanese sources have confirmed that the ruling military council in Sudan has moved 50 Iraqi fighter planes from the Wadi Sayyidna air base to the northern border between Halfa and Aswan. The Iraqi squadron arrived at the Wadi Sayyidna base in Sudan after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the Sudanese authorities' agreement to place the Sudanese military bases at the Iraqi leadership's command for fear of a possible air strike on Iraq.

Al-Bashir Interviewed on Gulf, Internal Issues

PM1809143590 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 17 Sep 90 pp 14-15

[Interview with Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, by Hamidah Na'na' in Paris; date not given]

[Text] [Na'na'] Your Excellency, there are really many questions to ask on the executions which have taken place in Sudan, the imprisonment of political leaders who were in power before you assumed power, the problem of the south, and politial dialogue, but because of the Gulf crisis and its complications and threat to Arab security I will give my question on the Gulf priority over all other questions. Sudan has taken a clear official stand against foreign intervention in the region. The Sudanese people have clearly taken an honorable and unforgettable stand manifested in the demonstrations staged in Sudanese towns. My question is: Are you still hopeful of an Arab solution to the crisis despite the failure of the Arab summit conference and the Arab foreign ministers conference?

[Al-Bashir] Sudan's position has been very clear from the beginning of the crisis. The brother Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul went to Cairo and attended the meeting which made preparations for the summit conference. He called from Cairo and said that a draft resolution had been submitted to the foreign ministers' conference on the Gulf crisis. We told him: We wish that hasty resolutions which only further complicate the crisis can be avoided. We would like the matter of resolutions to be left to the Arab leaders themselves so that a solution may be found to prevent the intervention of foreign forces in the region because we believe that our interests are not the same as foreign interests. We repeatedly emphasized that settlement of the crisis must not be outside the Arab framework because we do not want the foreigners to endanger our region.

Regarding the Sudanese initiative, our position was that the summit conference should not take any resolution that could not, in practical terms, be implemented. We called for the formation of a good-offices committee that would meet with all parties to find a way out of the crisis. Unfortunately, our call was not heeded. On the contrary, the summit conference opened the way for the entry of foreign forces. Today I believe that the chances of an Arab solution to the crisis are very slim. Why? Because the massive presence of foreign forces on Arab territory means that it would not be easy for any Arab initiative to succeed. In the present atmosphere, any Arab initiative by any Arab party would be rejected by another. We believe that there must be an Arab initiative undertaken by more than one party where practical proposals would be submitted and then a large committee formed to meet with all parties to convince them of a solution acceptable to both sides.

[Na'na'] What, in your view, would be the main principles of such an initiative?

[Al-Bashir] The main thing now is to prevent any kind of war between the various parties, such as between Iraq and Kuwait, or Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, or other parties.

[Na'na'] Do you not believe that what was proposed in the Iraqi initiative really deserves study— that is, implementation of all UN resolutions on the region to end the state of tension and conflict?

[Al-Bashir] The question of Israel is different from the Gulf crisis. What we currently have is an issue which could trigger war. That does not mean that discussion of the problems of the region as a whole is unacceptable.

[Na'na'] Western observers found Sudan's stance at the latest summit conference strange. Why? I will explain. Most of the states which have supported Kuwait have been rewarded, mainly materially, by Kuwait or the United States. Sudan is a poor country with serious problems and heavy debts, yet it took a stance different from that of the United States and some Arab states. Why was that position taken and what are its dimensions?

[Al-Bashir] When we took our stance we did not think what material gain it would bring us, for if we had received billions of dollars from one party or another and the result was war in the region, our loss would be greater than these billions. We are a part of the Arab nation, and what happens to it affects us. A war in the Gulf would mean hitting Iraqi power, and that is exactly the same as hitting Sudan's power. What would be the value of money if Iraq was hit or if it was wiped off the map? We take a comprehensive view of the situation and we seek a solution that would prevent war. Sudan's position is a principled position not based on immediate or temporary benefits.

[Na'na'] Millions of Sudanese have come out onto the streets in support of Iraq. Yours is a new regime and you have much opposition. Did you not fear the demonstrating masses in the streets? Did you try to stop them?

[Al-Bashir] We have not tried to stop anyone from expressing his opinion. We know that Arab public opinion carries some weight in the West. The West must realize that there is a public opinion which denounces the solutions it proposes for the region. The Sudanese Government will eventually disappear, but the people will remain. The government could change overnight, but the people are the people. If the people kept quiet about an Arab summit resolution allowing foreign forces into the region, that would give such forces legitimacy. What has happened, in relation to Kuwait, is rejected; but what is more rejected than that is letting in foreign forces to strike at Iraq and not giving the option of an Arab solution a chance.

[Na'na'] You talk a lot about an Arab solution. Are you really hopeful?

[Al-Bashir] So long as war does not break out, there is still a chance for a solution. We must try. After my visit to Iraq I felt that a solution was still possible.

[Na'na'] What was your impression after your recent meeting with President Saddam Husayn. Did you sense that he wanted to find a peaceful solution to the issue of Kuwait?

[Al-Bashir] Yes, I came out of my meeting with him with the impression that an inter-Arab solution was still possible. I will, therefore, continue to make efforts and contact the brothers. I hope I will succeed because we do not want to give the enemies of the nation an opportunity to destroy us one by one. If Iraq was hit today the next blow would be directed against Syria or Iran or Saudi Arabia or Sudan, and so on and so forth.

[Na'na'] Do you consider the presence of U.S. forces on the other side of the Red Sea to be a threat to Sudan's security?

[Al-Bashir] Their presence is a threat to the Arab nation and its security, a threat to all states of the region. The West wants above all to strike at Iraq's power, which is a power for us all. The West helped Iraq during the war without realizing that Iraq would develop its defensive capabilities, but as soon as the war was over and it knew the truth, it began to contemplate hitting that power. However, the Arabs should understand perfectly well that if the West succeeded in hitting Iraq, the next blow would be dealt to Egypt. Finding pretexts is not a problem at all. After Egypt it would be Syria, and the Palestinian cause would be finished.

[Na'na'] There is now a new political approach in the Arab world based on combining nationalism and religion or, in other words, bringing religion and nationalism closer together. You used that language when you came to power. What are your views now?

[Al-Bashir] It is impossible to separate nationalism from religion. The Arab nation had no entity or presence without Islam. Before Islam, the Arab nation consisted of barefoot, naked, and scattered tribes. Islam united them and turned them into a power which was able to destroy the two superpowers of the time, the Romans and the Persians. That is why we see today that the combination of religion and nationalism horrifies the West. If the nation were to unite behind the principles of Islam it would become a power capable of doing what it did in the past. That is why others do not want it to survive on that basis. We are a powerful and resourceful nation in the heart of the Islamic world. Any unity based on Arabism and Islam would make the nation very strong indeed.

[Na'na'] There are political parties and figures in Sudan who advocate the same ideas. Why are you at loggerheads with them, and why has there been no dialogue with them?

[Al-Bashir] Yes, the main political powers in Sudan have the same leanings and have similar views, but the problem is ideological and there are personal disputes over leadership. That is why we have removed the leaderships which were in conflict with one another and have addressed the lower leaderships.

[Na'na'] Your relations with the Libyan Jamahiriyah have reached a very advanced stage. Will there be unity or federation between Sudan and Libya, and if so, on what basis?

[Al-Bashir] Yes, relations with Libya have indeed reached a very advanced stage, the stage of integration. We have signed the regulations governing the functioning of the integration organs and have formed a general secretariat and the various integration bodies, which include the leadership higher committee for the two countries, the ministerial council, and the administrative general secretariat. The secretary-general and the assistant secretary-general have been named. The first is Sudanese and the second is Libyan. Tripoli will be the headquarters of the general secretariat. There are also economic and cultural projects under consideration.

[Na'na'] Will this integration develop into a merger unity?

[Al-Bashir] The charter stipulates that two years after the announcement of full integration the charter will be reviewed in the light of the projects fulfilled with the aim of carrying these achievements to a higher level, which could well be unity between the two countries. We are in favor of unity, which is a noble objective, and we are interested in a model unity established through democratic dialogue to be an example for the other Arab states.

[Na'na'] Do you believe the Americans will exacerbate the situation in southern Sudan by reactivating the Garang forces against you as a punishment for your recent stance at the Arab summit conference? Incidently, what is the latest on the question of the south?

[Al-Bashir] They have already started, but the question of the south, in its depth and diversity, is not an easy one. Since we assumed power we have convened a dialogue conference embodying all political views and including representatives of the various movements in the south. Some feared the consequences of such a conference, but we were optimistic. Despite the differences of opinion during the conference, all came out of it with a unified program. The solution arrived at was that government in Sudan should be a federal one. We also discussed other basic issues in which there were public complaints—such as distribution of wealth, power sharing, balanced development, the preservation and development of local cultures, and the maintenance of the link between religion and the state.

All these matters were discussed and solutions found for them. Anyone who has seen these solutions would testify that they are reasonable. That is the situation as far as we are concerned, but the other side is not free to make its own decisions.

[Na'na'] Why does Sudan insist on keeping the south despite the different customs, traditions, and identity, particularly as the south has, since independence, been the cause of a continuous hemorrhage which has hindered Sudan's development?

[Al-Bashir] In the south, 18 percent are Muslims, 17 percent are Christian, and the rest have their own local religions. These are the statistics of the World Council of Churches. We cannot say that the identity of the south is different from the identity of the north. The language used in the south is Arabic. Because every tribe has its own different dialect, they use Arabic to communicate. The West is trying to prevent the spread of Arab culture in the south. Let me also state the fact that of the 5 million southerners, 3.5 million now live in the north. They moved to the north because of the welfare and security they get there. They now have the same customs, traditions, and attire as their brothers in the north. You know that the British had, until 1946, sealed off the south and banned Arab dress, traditions, and names there.

[Na'na'] So you are banking on complete affinity?

[Al-Bashir] We hope so. We should not allow the secessionist movement to achieve its objectives because that would encourage other parts of Sudan. If secession is achieved in the south it would weaken Sudan. True, southern Sudan consumes 55 percent of the state budget but, despite that, we will never give it up.

Government Supports Arab League Move to Cairo

NC1809165490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—Sudan has emphasized its compliance with the Arab League Council resolution, passed in Tunis on 11 March, on the return of the Arab League Headquarters to Cairo. A statement released by the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo today said that the Sudanese Government reaffirms that it honors the Arab League Charter. It also emphasizes its confidence in the Arab League as a pan-Arab establishment that constitutes the suitable framework for joint Arab action in achieving the Arab nation's supreme interests.

Saudi Envoy Summoned on Internal 'Interference'

JN1909093790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Sep (INA)—INA has learned from diplomatic sources in Khartoum that Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Sudanese Revolution Command Council member and official in charge of foreign affairs, summoned the ambassador of the betrayer [custodian] of the two holy mosques in Khartoum today and informed him of Sudan's strong protest against his regime's interference in Sudan's internal affairs.

Col. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah also told the Fahd regime's ambassador that the Saudi Embassy in London has contacted the rebellion movement in southern Sudan, invited a number of rebels to visit Saudi Arabia, and expressed its readiness to extend aid to the rebels.

It is worth mentioning that the rebellion movement in southern Sudan had issued a statement in which it expressed support for the Fahd regime and for all the measures this regime has taken, including the arrival of foreign forces in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

Transport Minister, Iranian Diplomat Hold Talks

EA1909073490 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1505 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Sep (SUNA)—The minister of transport and communications, Mr. 'Ali Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahim, today met at his office his excellency the charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Khartoum, with whom he discussed the reactivation of the agreements between the two countries in the field of transport and communications.

The minister later said in a press statement that they had discussed the possibility of assistance in acquiring equipment, machinery and materials for maintenance of telephone lines. The minister said the agreements concerned the provision of training opportunities in Iran for Sudanese technicians on maintenance of telephone lines. The minister added that the Iranian official had promised to follow the matter up with the relevant authorities in his country to implement the agreements urgently.

'Remarkable Improvement' in Chad Ties Cited

EA1809172990 Khartoum SUNA in English 1019 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 18th September SUNA)—The concerned authorities in Darfur region, western Sudan, have adopted new measures on the immigrants from neighboring Chad, through meetings between the regional government and the immigrants, in a bid to avoid the negative impacts of their presence on the region's security said the region's governor Major General Abu al-Qasim Ibrahim. The governor explained that security committees in the two countries [are] holding regular meetings, through opening channels, according to the recent communique of the technical joint committee concerning the following-up and solving of the border problems. The governor further indicated that the Sudanese-Chadian relations witnessed a remarkable improvement due to the effective activity for finding solutions to the problems between the two countries.

Khartoum Celebrates Libyan Revolution

EA1909120490 Khartoum SUNA in English 1021 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 18th September (SUNA)—Representative of the Popular Committees here, Zayn al-Abidin Hasan Zayn al-Din has hailed the achievements realised by the 1st September Revolution. Zayn al-Din, who was addressing the celebrations organised here yesterday on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the Libyan Revolution, called for speeding up the building of the integration bases (?which aim) at facing the foreign presence in the Arab world.

The celebrations, which were attended by the national capital commissioner and delegations from Libya and Iraq, were also addressed by secretary of the Libyan brotherhood office here. The Libyan diplomat hailed the celebrations, which he said confirmed the solidarity of the two peoples.

The chairman of the Iraqi delegation briefed the participants on the situation in the Gulf region.

Plans Under Way To Twin Darfur, Libyan Province

EA1909071290 Khartoum SUNA in English 1018 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 18 September (SUNA)—A popular delegation from Darfur region will leave for Libya at the beginning of next October for preparing a joint charter for the twinship between Darfur region and the Libyan province of Tahadi, and identification of the joint projects in the fields of border trade and immigration, announced the governor of Darfur Region, Maj. Gen. 'Abu al-Qasim Ibrahim today. In his statement to the daily "AL-INQADH AL-WATANI" of today, Ibrahim said that the implementation of twinship considers as implementation of the principals of the Sudanese-Libya integration.

Ex-State Council Head Meets Envoy to Egypt

EA1809133290 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Sep (SUNA)—Mr. Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the dissolved head of state's council, has described the political and propaganda activities of some members on behalf of the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] in Egypt as being unrepresentative of his views and those of Mr. Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, [leader of the DUP] inasmuch as the party had been dissolved and had no representatives to speak on its behalf. Mr. Ahmad al-Mirghani said this when he met his excellency the Sudanese ambassador to Egypt in Alexandria this morning. He added that he himself and Mr. Muhammad 'Uthman opposed everything being said and published in the way of attacks against Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the Revolution Command Council chairman, the damaging reports against the revolution, and the distortion of facts. He said some people had illegitimately set themselves up as spokesmen of the dissolved party and as members of what they called its political bureau. These were imaginary positions to which they had appointed themselves.

Arab Papers' Campaign Against Country Condemned

EA1909103190 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1458 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] The Sudanese Journalists Union Steering Committee has condemned the unjust campaign that some Arab newspapers have waged against Sudan and its revolutionary leadership and also other Arab states and leaders. This is in the wake of the deteriorating situation in the Gulf and in the Arab region in general.

In a statement issued today on this campaign, the committee called on these papers not to make mistakes but to uphold the ethics of the noble profession and abide by the firm, honorable press conventions and traditions derived from time-honored Islamic and Arab moral standards. The statement continued that the campaigns of incitement, hostility, and distortion would not benefit the Arab nation but would proliferate differences and infighting at a time when solidarity and unity were most needed to meet the basic challenges of the imperialist-colonialist-Zionist tide in Arab lands and its arrogant hegemony threatening the Arab nation's destiny and cultural progress.

The statement reiterated support for the serious efforts being made by the leadership of the National Salvation Revolution in Sudan in cooperation with other Arab leaders. It also expressed support for the moves of the Islamic and popular organizations to avoid war in the region.

Native Administrative Bill for 1990 Approved

EA1809132090 Khartoum SUNA in English 0906 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 17th September (SUNA)—The chairman of the Revolution Command Council, RCC, Gen 'Umar al-Bashir approved yesterday the bill of the native administration for 1990. The law organizes the native administration work as regards preservation of security, public order and linking of the regions with the central bodies and curbing the tribal clashes.

It further determined the assignments of the native administrator and their powers.

SPLA Rebels Say 15 NCO's 'Secretly Executed'

EA1809132290 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army]—Sources in the general Army headquarters in Khartoum have informed Radio SPLA that the fundamentalist military junta has executed 15 NCO's, [noncommissioned officers] all from the Nubah tribe. The 15 were accused of plotting and collaborating with the SPLA. This is the third time in which NCO's from the Nubah mountains serving in the national Army have been secretly executed by the junta.

SPLA Says Government Dismissed 60 Lawyers

EA1809132690 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] The National Islamic Front [NIF] junta has pensioned more than 60 lawyers, including all the members of the high court and the deputy chief justice. This is the second largest number of lawyers to be dismissed by the fundamentalist NIF junta in Khartoum following the 75 lawyers dismissed by the junta as soon as the junta took over power in a military coup in June 1989. The names of the 60 lawyers will be read over Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] as soon as they are available.

Bahrain

Iranian Diplomat Calls for Iraqi Withdrawal

JN1809165490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Manama, 18 Sep (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister, received here today Hoseyn Naraqyan [name as received], Iranian charge d'affaires to Bahrain. The Bahraini prime minister expressed, during the meeting, his appreciation for the Iranian Government's stance on the Gulf crisis calling for the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwaiti territory.

The Iranian charge d'affaires said that his country adheres to its stance on the rejection of any change in the geographical borders in the region and the need for unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from the sisterly State of Kuwait and the return of the legitimate government.

The two sides also reviewed international efforts to solve the Gulf problem and relations between the two friendly countries.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mutawi', director general of the Bahraini prime minister's office, and 'Ali Muhammad al-'Arid, chief of the Information and Follow-Up Department at the office.

Kuwait

Military Force To Receive New 'Advanced' Weapons

PM1909100690 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 15 Sep 90 pp 1-2

[Report on interview with Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah by 'Aziz al-Dajani; date, place not given—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Text] Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah has revealed that the defense ministry is about to receive new advanced weapons from a number of states with which Kuwait signed contracts for the purchase of the weapons before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

In an exclusive interview with AL-ANBA', Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir said that the Kuwaiti military force which confronted the Iraqi invasion constituted only 25 percent of Kuwait's defense capabilities because the Kuwaiti military command never thought that Iraq—the sister and neighbor that we supported throughout its long war with Iran—would invade our country in such an ugly and barbaric way which exposed all Saddam Husayn's intentions.

He added that the arms which Kuwait will soon receive from certain European states would be used by the Army to liberate the homeland and repulse the sinister occupation and the invaders.

He said that the units which confronted the occupation in the hours of the invasion were unable to get all their equipment out of their camps in Kuwait before withdrawing to southern positions and then crossing into Saudi Arabia at the invitation of the noble Saudi officials. Most of the mechanized, armored, and defensive military equipment, he said, was unmanned at the time of the invasion and remained in Kuwait and was later seized by the invaders. It included some Air Force equipment that is unusable because our entire Air Force was taken out of Kuwait by our pilots and other forces.

Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad said that Kuwait's small size lessened our air defenses' ability to confront the air attacks because enemy aircraft took off from their air bases nearby and were able to reach their targets within seconds; this made it difficult to operate the alarm system and launch the antiaircraft missiles quickly, but it did not prevent our air defenses from inflicting heavy aircraft losses on the enemy, and our own fighter planes inflicted heavy losses on the occupation forces after they attacked Kuwaiti airports.

The minister said that the fact that Kuwaiti forces were not concentrated on the borders with Iraq was a response to the wishes of numerous Arab leaders and kings lest an organized Kuwaiti military presence on the borders be interpreted as a provocation which the Iraqi ruler could use as a pretext to escalate the situation, which is why officers' and troops' leave was not cancelled and they were not recalled from leave. Otherwise, he said, we would have been fully prepared to bury Saddam Husayn's ambitions and confront his forces. We did not imagine or believe for one moment, he added, that the Iraqi forces—equipped with Kuwaiti and Saudi funds and supported in all circumstances by us with much sacrifice on our part—would do what they did.

The defense miniser said there was a strong desire to set up and equip a training camp for the Kuwaiti youth and to facilitate the enrollment of volunteers and to give them military training so that they can participate in the liberation of beloved Kuwait. The preparation of the camp, he said, would be done with the cooperation of the responsible authorities in the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, which is not too much to ask of these states which have granted all requests with regard to military preparations for the Kuwaiti forces.

He intimated that the defense ministry will receive more military equipment from abroad and that a Kuwaiti military brigade has already joined the joint forces and that another brigade was preparing to assume its duties under the joint command.

Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad criticized the Iraqi ruler, who insists on taking the region to the brink of a war that could destroy everything by refusing to accept the Arab and UN resolutions calling for his forces' withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate government. Saddam Husayn's statements, he said, reveal his confusion, crimes, barbarism, and ignorance of international law and human relationships.

Radio Reports Tanks Deployed Near Embassies

NC1809130990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] According to well-informed sources, the Iraqi forces in Kuwait have set up a camp around a number of foreign embassies and have deployed tanks close to these embassies. Eyewitnesses who managed to cross the Kuwaiti-Saudi borders that were reopened on Saturday said that the Iraqi forces in Kuwait are trying to make drastic changes in the demographic structure there and to induce the Kuwaiti population to leave the country.

Mutiny Among Iraqi Invading Forces Claimed

PM1909094690 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 13 Sep 90 p 1

[Ahmad Sa'id Muslih report: "Surprises in Baghdad Imminent, Sharp Differences Among Iraqi Army Commanders"]

[Text] AL-MADINAH has learned from informed sources that sharp differences have erupted among Iraqi Army commanders and that a state of dissatisfaction prevails among the invading Iraqi forces in Kuwait.

The informed sources said that there is a conflict between Air Force Commander Hamid Sha'ban and the commander of the 7th Corps, pointed out that the situation in Iraq is explosive, and warned that there would be surprises soon.

Some of those returning from Iraq and Kuwait have said that Iraqi citizens have started to ridicule and make jokes about Saddam Husayn's statements, especially since these statements have exceeded all bounds and traditions, as though they were made by a gang leader, not a head of state.

They said that a group calling itself the "'Adnan Khayrallah" [late defense minister] group blew up a kerosene plant in the capital, Baghdad, recently and that fighting broke out recently in the Samra' area, resulting in the nine deaths.

Returnees from Kuwait said that they saw a number of Iraqi Army soldiers shooting their officers after tying them up in the streets of Kuwait, that three officers—a colonel, a lieutenant colonel, and a captain—were executed by their troops, and that a state of dissatisfaction prevails among the invading Iraqi forces, who were disobeying orders.

Meanwhile, Saddam Husayn has deprived Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim of all his powers.

Official Denies Mistreatment of Palestinians

LD1909081490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0256 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Al Ta'if, 19 Sep (SPA)—An authoritative source at the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers has refuted allegations made by a PLO's official spokesman on what he called hostile measures by Kuwaiti officials in Kuwait against the sons of the Palestinian colony there.

The Kuwaiti source has pointed out, in a statement reported by the Qatari News Agency, in reply to a statement made by the Palestinian spokesman in Amman yesterday, that there are at the moment no Kuwaiti officials in the country, which is suffering from the calamities of the Iraqi occupation that is exercizing the worst kind of repression, oppression, bloodletting, and rape against Kuwaiti citizens and others. Therefore, if it is true that there were any criminal practices against the sons of the Palestinian colony in Kuwait, it is surely the Iraqi occupation authorities which have carried them out.

The source expressed regrets and denunciation for the stance of the PLO leadership which knew that its false allegations and fabrications have nothing to do with reality, pointing out that the legitimate Kuwaiti authorities are no longer inside Kuwait and there is no one there to represent them.

The Kuwaiti source warned that the PLO leadership is intending, in collusion with Saddam Husayn, to sow the seeds of sedition and schism between Palestinians in Kuwait and Kuwaitis, and between Palestinians and their brothers in the rest of the Gulf countries.

The Kuwaiti source said in its statement that a principled moral stand was expected from the PLO officials rejecting invasion and condemning murder, plundering, and violations of honor committed by the Iraqi occupation forces. But they preferred, for personal considerations, to impute these criminal acts to what they called Kuwaiti officials who remained in Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti source indicated that the sons of the Palestinian community have been living in Kuwait for a long time, and none of them is unaware of the extent of the good welcome and hospitality the Kuwaiti government and people have given them.

The source said that it is not at all possible, in a situation of occupation and at a time when the Kuwaiti people are enduring its horrors and doing what it can to face up to it [the occupation], that this same people opens another front against its Palestinian brothers.

The Kuwaiti official source called upon the sons of the Palestinian people in Kuwait to side with their Kuwaiti brothers in confronting the forces of occupation, and to ignore the fallacies which came in the PLO official spokesman's statement.

Protest Sent to Arab League Over Iraqi Actions

LD1809104990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0915 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] The permanent delegation of the State of Kuwait has addressed a memorandum to the general secretariat of the Arab League concerning the high-handed practices of the military forces of the Iraqi regime against the Kuwaiti people.

The memorandum said that the Iraqi occupation authorities adopted a decision about a week ago to tighten their grip on the Kuwaiti citizens by inhuman ill-treatment and further high-handed and repressive measures designed to drive those citizens out of their homeland.

The memorandum noted that the Iraqi occupation authorities, by following this new policy to displace the country's population and open the exit road leading to the Saudi-Kuwaiti frontier, are seeking to obliterate the Kuwaiti identity and to resettle Iraqi families or pro-Iraqi nationalities in the homes of Kuwaitis.

The permanent Kuwaiti delegation at the Arab League explained in its memorandum that the Iraqi occupation authorities have arrested numerous Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti citizens because they have refused to collaborate with the occupation authorities.

The permanent Kuwaiti delegation requested that the memorandum be circulated to Arab League member states.

Here follows the full text of the memorandum: The permanent delegation of the State of Kuwait greets the esteemed Arab League General Secretariat—the office of the Secretary General—and wishes to raise the fact that the Iraqi occupation authorities adopted a decision about a week ago to tighten their grip on Kuwaiti citizens through inhuman ill-treatment and the application of more repressive measures with a view to forcing them to leave their homeland.

This new policy has been adopted to displace the steadfast people of the country. The exit road leading to the Kuwaiti-Saudi border point at Al-Nuwaysib was opened, and all those who leave the country are asked to surrender all their official documents—birth certificates, passports, nationality cards, identity cards, and driver's licenses.

This seems to be aimed at obliterating the Kuwaiti identity and resettling Iraqi families or pro-Iraqi nationalties in the Kuwaitis' homes. As a result, about 3,000 Kuwaitis arrived the day before yesterday through the southern exit road at al-Nuwaysib.

The Iraqi occupation authorities have also arrested a large number of Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti nationals because they refused to cooperate with the occupation authorities. They are subjected to all sorts of humiliation and physical torture in order to force them to submit to the Iraqis' purposes. The following people have been identified among them: Khalid Sultan al-'Isa, ex-member of the National Assembly and one of the leaders of the Islamic Patrimony Association al-Salaf; Abd al-Karim al-Hujaydili, ex-member of the National Assembly and member of the National Council; Mubarak al- Duwaylah, ex-member of the National Assembly; and Jabir al-Jabir, member of the National Council. Their fate, and that of a great number of civilians and military personnel, is still unknown.

The occupation authorities have also carried out executions in a barbaric manner and in full view of a large number of people. Specifically, they shot dead Mubarak Falih al-Nut, president of the al-'Aridiyyah cooperative society and president of the banking society, because he refused to cooperate with Iraqi occupation authorities and would not comply with their order to remove the picture of the exalted amir and replace it with a picture of Saddam Husayn.

The permanent delegation of the State of Kuwait requests the circulation of this memorandum to the member states and it takes this opportunity to express its high esteem and respect for the Arab League General Secretariat.

Qatar

Minister, Iranian Envoy Discuss Gulf

LD1809185790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Qatar has emphasized its support for the legal rights of Iran in the implementation of the 1975 [Algiers] accord and its acceptance by Iraq. According to IRNA, Qatar's minister of culture and information received Iran's ambassador today and stressed Qatar's support for the 1975 accord and the legal rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the positions adopted by our country regarding the Persian Gulf crisis.

In this meeting the expansion of bilateral relations in various fields was discussed.

Saudi Arabia

Foreign Minister Welcomes USSR Forces to Area

LD1809194390 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, annouced that Saudi Arabia definitely welcomes the sending of Soviet Forces to Saudi Arabia.

In a news conference held today, Tuesday, in Moscow, which was relayed by AFP, his royal highness said Saudi Arabia received Arab, Islamic, and friendly forces and would definitely welcome Soviet forces.

He added that Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union hope for a peaceful solution of the Arabian Gulf crisis, however, we must admit the war is not on the on the verge of erupting, it has already done so.

Concerning the naval blockade imposed on the Iraqi regime, the foreign minister said: I do not know whether the decision was adopted with the support of the Soviet Union, but we are grateful because the Soviet Union has so forcefully supported the decision. He pointed out that he cannot talk for the Soviet Union concerning Moscow's direct participation in the blockade.

8,000 Kuwaitis Flee Across Border 15-17 Sep

NC1809193090 Paris AFP in English 1829 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Manama, Sept 18 (AFP)—Some 8,000 Kuwaitis fled to Saudi Arabia between Saturday and Monday, when the exodus began to slow, a member of a Kuwaiti resistance organization was quoted as saying Tuesday.

The unidentified official, quoted by the Kuwaiti news agency monitored here, said fewer people passed through the Saudi border post at Khafji on Monday as Iraqi troops were stopping Kuwaiti men under 30.

The troops later halted all Kuwaiti men aged between 15 and 40 "whom they intend to incorporate into the Iraqi army," the official said.

Iraqi forces, who invaded and occupied Kuwait early last month, on Saturday unexpectedly opened a border post opposite Khafji in northeast Saudi Arabia and began allowing Kuwaitis to cross, after seizing their identity documents.

Those who entered Saudi Arabia on Monday, nearly all women, children and elderly men, were living in makeshift camps in Khafji "under very difficult conditions" the resistance official said.

Border formalities have been delayed as Saudi frontier police, fearing the entry of Iraqi spies and agents, question refugees—none of whom is carrying a passport—at great length.

Pakistani Prime Minister Received by King

LD1409171190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1625 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 14 Sep (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, may God protect him, received in his office in al-Salam Palace His Excellency Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, the Pakistani prime minister, and the delegation accompanying him. [passage omitted]

Meets Ershad

BK1409161090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has said that general elections will be held according to schedule, which will usher in a new era in the country. Talking to a group of Pakistanis in Jeddah today, the prime minister said the patriotic, Islam-loving, and democratic political parties—comprising Islamic Democratic Alliance and former Combined Opposition Parties—have set a new example by agreeing to field consensus candidates in general elections. Jatoi said they will provide a leadership which will work for the well-being of the people. He said during its rule, the previous government bypassed the Constitution, indulged in corrupt practices, and misused powers. The Pakistani people will totally reject the people who adopted the path of confrontation and who had been plundering national wealth.

About the Gulf situation, the prime minister said the government is fully aware of its role in the region. Pakistan will never endorse aggression against any country and Islamabad's stand against Iraqi aggression is based on this principle. He added that the Pakistani Army contingent has been sent to Saudi Arabia to protect the Muslim holy places and it will play only a defensive role there. The prime minister added that his government is fully aware of the problems of the Pakistanis living in this region.

Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi had a meeting in Jeddah with Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad who is also on a visit to Saudi Arabia. The two leaders exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and international issues, especially the Gulf situation. The Bangladesh president thanked Pakistan for agreeing to provide transit and other facilities to Bangladeshi nationals returning from Kuwait.

Leaves Jeddah

BK1509121490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi met with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia in Jeddah yesterday. They discussed the Gulf crisis. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and his Saudi counterpart, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, were also present at the meeting.

The prime minister gave his assurance that the people of Pakistan will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with their Saudi brothers in their difficult time. In a statement before leaving Jeddah at the end of his stay in Saudi Arabia, he said that in his meeting with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, both of them exchanged views on important developments in the Gulf that are affecting peace and stability in the region. The prime minister emphasized that the government and the people of Pakistan are convinced that as members of the Islamic community, the destinies of Pakistan and Saudi arabia are interlinked. [words indistinct] no effort will be spared to promote the relations based on [words indistinct]. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said that Pakistan has taken an unequivocal stand on the current crisis in the Gulf and has responded wholeheartedly to the Saudi call to participate in defending its territorial integrity. Pakistan gives the highest importance to close brotherly relations between the two countries, he added.

Riyadh Protests Bonn's Nonparticipation in Gulf

LD1509085190 Hamburg DPA in German 2359 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Riyadh (DPA)—The Government of Saudi Arabia has officially protested the Federal Republic's attitude toward the conflict in the Middle East. As the Hamburg-based news magazine DER SPIEGEL reports in its latest edition, Bonn's ambassador in Riyadh, Wolfgang Bente, was summoned to the office of Deputy Prime Minister and Crown Prince Abdullah who expressed his deep disappointment at the Federal Republic's refusal to take part in the international effort against Iraq with its own troops. DER SPIEGEL reports that the government in Riyadh hinted that its displeasure might affect trade relations if there were no positive signals from Bonn. It was questionable whether the Federal Republic could remain Saudi Arabia's third largest trading partner where imports are concerned after the crisis was over.

The article was pre-released to DPA.

United Arab Emirates

Pakistani Prime Minister Arrives in Abu Dhabi

JN1509152290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Sep (WAKH)—Pakistani Prmie Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi arrived in Abu Dhabi this evening on a short visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] as part of a tour of the region. During his visit, Jatoi is scheduled to meet with UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

Meets With Zayid

JN1509160690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1245 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Sep (WAKH)—A responsible source in the United Arab Emirates [UAE] has said that developments in the region in light of the continued Iraqi occupation of Kuwait were discussed during the meeting held today between the UAE president, His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, and Pakistani Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi.

The source said that his highness the UAE president stressed during the meeting his country's firm and declared position on the Gulf crisis which favors the immediate withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the return of legitimate authority under His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

The source added that the views of the UAE and Pakistan on the Gulf crisis were identical. He said the Pakistani prime minister stressed his country's position on the crisis and the need to end the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and implement all Arab and international resolutions in this regard.

Calls for Iraqi Withdrawal

JN1509160090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Sep (WAKH)—Pakistan has called on Iraq to immediately withdraw its invasion forces from Kuwait and reiterated its condemnation and denunciation of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. During a meeting with the Pakistani community in the United Arab Emirates this morning, Pakistani Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi declared that Pakistan will do its best to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. He also declared his country adhered to the resolutions of the United Nations, the Security Council, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Arab League with regard to ending the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

The Pakistani prime minister noted that his country dispatched Pakistani armed forces to Saudi Arabia to defend the two holy mosques only. He said that there is no other objective or any intention to commit aggression on any other country.

Pakistan had decided to send 5,000 soldiers to Saudi Arabia. So far, 3,000 have arrived.

Yemen

Salih Thanks Mitterrand for Writing Off Debts

JN1809204390 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of Presidential Council, welcomed French President Francois Mitterrand's announcement of the French Government's special decision to cancel the debts of five of the lesser developed countries, one of which is the Republic of Yemen. The brother president expressed in a message he sent to French President Francois Mitterrand on behalf of himself and the members of the Presidential Council our country's thanks and appreciation to the president, government, and people of the French Republic for this good gesture which indicates the deep cordial bilateral relations and firm cooperation between the two friendly peoples.

Moroccan Envoy Delivers Message on Gulf, Departs

JN1809205090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Brother Ahmed Bensouda, adviser to King Hassan II of Morocco, left Sanaa today at the conclusion of a visit during which he handed a message to Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, from his brother King Hassan II of Morocco. In a statement to SABA' [Yemeni Press Agency], brother Bensouda said he conveyed to chairman Salih the greetings and blessings of King Hassan II on the reunification of Yemen and the launching of the Republic of Yemen.

Bensouda said: I am extremely glad—and I have followed the experience of the Yemeni national movement since the sixties—to visit Yemen while it is, for the first time, united and stable. He said that during his meeting with Chairman Salih, they discussed bilateral ties, the situation in the Gulf, and the need to close Arab ranks and take Arab action to put an end to this tragedy. The ideas of Chairman Salih and King Hassan II, he added, are identical, which will help render efforts success, God willing.

He was seen off by brother Husayn al-Maqdami, member of the Advisory Council; a representative of Presidential Protocol; and the Moroccan ambassador in Sanaa.

RCC Issues Law on 'Protection' of Funds, Assets

JN1909091390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Sep (INA)—Iraqi newspapers today published on their front pages the text of Law No. 57 of 1990 issued by the Revolution Command Council [RCC] last night regarding the protection of Iraqi funds, interests, and rights inside and outside Iraq.

The first article of the law stipulates that any law or decision adopted by the governments concerned to seize [hajz] the Iraqi funds and assets abroad shall not be considered, and those governments shall be responsible for safeguarding these funds and assets, their profits, commercial interest, and other rights.

The second article of the law holds foreign institutions and companies that have contracts with the Iraqi Government, its institutions, companies, or any other government establishment responsible for safeguarding the equipment, machinery, or any other material or goods that belong, or part of which belong to Iraq, and also for safeguarding the sums of money that have already been paid and their due interest and other rights.

The third article of the law holds foreign banks fully responsible for safeguarding the Iraqi funds deposited with them and these funds' interest, profits, and other rights.

The fourth article stipulates that the concerned Iraqi authorities shall not be responsible for any direct or indirect damage resulting from any delay in these foreign institutions' and companies' fulfillment of their contractual obligations to Iraq—institutions or individuals. These institutions and companies shall be fully responsible for this or any other damage to the Iraqi side.

The sixth [as received] article stipulates that the Iraqi courts and boards of arbitration shall not examine any case lodged inside Iraq against the Iraqi Government, its institutions, companies, or any other government or private sides. Moreover, any decision or law, regardless of its nature, issued or to be issued by any court, board of arbitration, or any other side abroad in this regard shall not be considered, and the parties concerned shall be responsible for the consequences of the implementation of any law or decision that conflicts with this law.

The seventh article stipulates that all the funds, assets and their revenues that belong to the governments, institutions, companies, and banks of the states that have issued arbitrary decisions against Iraq shall be seized.

Envoy Says Saddam Husayn May Visit Tehran

NC1809150790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] The Iranian ambassador to Pakistan today declared that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn may visit Tehran. At a news conference he held in Islamabad today, he said that the date of the visit has not been fixed.

Iranian Envoy, 'Aziz Discuss POW, MIA Issues

LD1809181190 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 18, IRNA—Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Manuchehr Motaki and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz held a one and half hour meeting in Baghdad Tuesday on the POWs swap, re-opening of embassies, demarcation of border posts and determination of the fate of those reported missing in action during the war.

'Aziz, who visited Tehran last week, expressed hope that the two neighbours would resume diplomatic ties with the opening of their respective embassies in each other's capitals. He also announced Baghdad's readiness for an investigation by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) into the fate of Iranian war prisoners who have not yet returned to Iran and those declared as missing in action. 'Aziz said a team of Iraqi experts would soon visit Tehran to follow up the work of a joint technical committee on POWs and MIAs.

Mottaki stressed the need for repatriation of all prisoners of war and for "a clear response by Iraq about those declared as missing in action." The Iranian deputy foreign minister in his second round of talks with his Iraqi counterpart al-Zahawi discussed a draft copy pertaining to duties and working methods of the joint technical committee on POWs and MIAs.

Mottaki and his entourage left Baghdad for Tehran today and were seen off by al-Zahawi and other Iraqi Foreign Ministry officials. The POW exchange and simultaneous withdrawal of Iraqi troops from occupied Iranian territories began two days after Iraq's acceptance of Iranian terms for peace last August 15.

Says Talks 'Positive,' Departs

JN1809114690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Sep (INA)—Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Manuchehr Motaki and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad today following an official three-day visit to Iraq.

The Iranian official described his talks with the Iraqi side as positive and fruitful and permeated by a cordial atmosphere of mutual understanding. In a statement to INA, he said that the talks dealt with the normalization of relations between the two countries, the exchange of prisoners of war [POW's], and the opening of the two countries' embassies. He added that the visit resulted in fixing the date and venue for holding the first meeting of the joint technical committee on the POW exchange issue.

The Iranian delegation was seen off by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Wisam al-Zahawi and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

'Kuwait Governorate' Crowds Condemn Bush Message

JN1809182790 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] With shouts of overwhelming anger, tens of thousands of the sons of Kuwait Governorate have condemned the message of U.S. President Bush. The masses, who assembled at the governorate's center, carried portraits of President leader Saddam Husayn, the symbol and great leader of Iraq toward the peaks of glory and Arab loftiness, and banners denouncing the U.S. and NATO invasion of the land of the holy places in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia]. The banners also denounced the fallacies, calumnies, and cheap lies contained in Bush's message, which exposed his colonialist mentality and his hidden rancor against lofty Iraq and the Arab and Islamic nation. The indignant masses burned effigies of Bush, voicing their indignation at the aggressive decisions adopted by the United States and its satellites in the UN Security Council against Iraq to jeopardize its security and stability and to deny its children milk and food. The demonstrators handed a document written with blood to 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command who is also the governor of Kuwait, who received the demonstrators at the governorate's center. In this document, they pledged to President leader Saddam Husayn on behalf of the sons of Kuwait Governorate to remain loyal soldiers ready for orders to defend Iraq and the Arab nation and to remain as unleashed swords until the invaders are defeated and until the will of Iraq and the Arab nation triumphs.

Send Cable to Saddam

JN1909103690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Tens of thousands of the sons of Kuwait Governorate who assembled in the centre of the governorate addressed a cable to President leader Saddam Husayn in which they reiterated the pledge of amity and allegiance to his excellency's historic leadership and their readiness to defend great Iraq and the Arab nation's security and sovereignty. Following is the text of the cable:

To the defender of the nation and its territory, the genuine Arab sword and victorious leader, President struggler Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect you. [passage omitted]

The spokesman for Zionism, Bush, president of the United States of America, and those rallied around him—who abhor the Arab nation and its existence, especially now when it is experiencing an age of awakening thanks to the Arab giant, the gift of heavens to the nation, the leader of the victorious march, President struggler Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him and protect him—thought that they can undermine the will of the nation, hamper its awakening, and destroy its entity, targeting great Iraq and its mighty people and their victorious leader. They are fabricating lies and fallacies and using all means of deception and plotting to mislead the Arab and world public opinion. They want to cover up their crimes and plots against our Arab nation. Since their frenzied existence appeared on the international map, they have unjustly been adopting peoples' causes and imposing their leadership on these peoples on any pretext. Woe unto them! The age of usurping wills and liberties, encroaching on dignity, and exploiting resources has gone. [passage omitted]

Our master, leader, and symbol: In the name of the indignant masses of our Iraqi people and of our Arab nation who voice their allegiance to you and to your wise leadership, the masses of Kuwait Governorate and Popular Army fighters respond to Bush's lies and fallacies and to his Western rancorous, frenzied supporters, to tell him and his lackeys: You have no place on the land of the prophet. Get out from it so that it remains pure and clean and so that the infidel puppets collapse. Get out from the land of holy places and save your face because you will lose everything and feel sorry when it is too late.

In the name of this huge crowd of the sons of our people in Kuwait Governorate and the fighters of the popular army, our reserve army, and all other sectors, we declare a resounding cry in the face of the enemies: Let nobody worry about us, we are your soldiers, O victorious leader. Just order us, and we will carry out your orders unhesitatingly behind your historic leadership. [passage omitted]

[Signed] Masses of Kuwait Governorate.

Threats of Raids Against Baghdad Challenged

JN1809200490 Baghdad Voice of Peace in English to Saudi Arabia 1230 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Undated "Message to the American soldiers on the Arab land of Saudia from the son of Mesopotamia"—source identified as Baghdad Voice of Peace since 11 September]

[Text] Whoever follows up the events in the Arab Gulf region comes across outstanding statements and actions and reaches more astonishing conclusions and comeups [as heard]. The most astonishing of all these declarations and conclusions are those of the United States' officials on all sub-levels. It seems to me that those senior officials never know how much of the world population are massing with Iraq. One recent of these irresponsible statements was of the U.S. air chief of staff in Saudi Arabia, declaring that he was ready to deliver an air strike against the Iraqi capital in order to convince Baghdad, as he said, to withdraw from Kuwait. This stupid and outrageous statement needs more than one answer:

First, the aforementioned air superman knows more than others that such a strike will get him and his administration nowhere, and that it would not be left unanswered. And he also knows full well that the Iraqi answer would be very difficult, and it would be many times as strong as the strike delivered by Iraq's enemy, and that it would reach all the powers of aggression in the region, starting from the air bases of the Americans in Saudi Arabia to the other corners of evil in the area, including all the allies of the

United States administration. And we do not have to review all the names, titles, and situations, because they are well known to everybody.

Second, the brave general, who wants to be famous by delivering astonishing statements is well informed through this humble channel and through other proper channels that should he or his administration start any kind of aggression, then they would have ignited a war that shall burn them altogether with their allies, helpers, and associates. Then the one aerial hit will be the beginning of grave land clashes which will bring the end to many regimes in the area, and would leave the GI's like you to their destiny in the Arabian desert in front of the well-trained Iraqi army.

Third, the flying general should know, as his position would necessitate, whether by listening to radio transmissions, or radio news bulletins, newspapers, or magazine, that Iraq does not stand alone in this region. Iraq is backed by all the Arab brave and loyal people and by all the Muslims in the world, with a population amounts to one billion—those who see in the existence of foreign troops on the sacred land of Muslims an ever so big crime that could not be forgiven unless these troops are removed immediately and unconditionally. And so, I think, if I can recall well, that your President and senior officials claimed at the beginning that they brought you to the desert in order to defend Saudi Arabia against an alleged probable Iraqi aggression—wasn't that right?—then why all of a sudden the claim changed into asking Iraq to rehandle the Kuwaiti issue? And why your generals do not mention the protection of the Saudi petrol Shaykh [word indistinct]. Did they believe at last that Iraq had no intention of attacking Saudia? Or that their claim in the first place was just a fake? Now you think well, very well, and find the answer for yourself. You do not need to tell me, because I know.

[Signed] Son of Mesopotamia.

Commentary Warns on War's Spreading Beyond Gulf

LD1809223890 Baghdad International Service in English 2000 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Excerpts] When the United States sent its troops into Saudi Arabia it said it was defending Saudi Arabia against a possible Iraqi attack. United States officials have said that their troops in Saudi Arabia were defensive and the United States has no intention to attack Iraq. However, recent reports say the United States was pouring offensive troops and equipment into Saudi Arabia for quite some time now, and that the likelihood of an attack was potentially strong.

The eight-year war had one benefit for the Iraqi—it has taught every Iraqi how to be a soldier and how to use a gun properly. War-hardened Iraqi leadership has, therefore, come out as one of the world's top military brains. Right from the start of the American invasion of Saudi Arabia, more than an Iraqi official [as heard] has been saying that the United States is in that Arab country to attack Iraq, and according to such a conclusion the Iraqis have drawn up their plans, military or otherwise. [passage omitted]

Washington's attitude appears to be one of the overconfidence. The United States is taken over by the feeling that it can do anything it wants with no party daring to challenge it. For United States strategists, American military presence in the Middle East means a defensive line close to the Soviet Union, a line which would confront any future Soviet attempt to have an influence in this vitally strategic area. Hence the United States' presence runs far beyond guarding oil wells in the area. It appears to be a years long stay, as United States Defense Secretary Richard Cheney said last week.

The Iraqis are asserting that they know in detail the United States' plans and have the appropriate means to confront the Americans. The United States will be making a grave, rather a fatal, mistake if it thought that any attack on Iraq will be merely a regional conflict. Any flareup in the Gulf will be an overall war, and the battlefield will not be confined to the Gulf region. One should not expect that Iraqis sit idle when their towns and population centers are being bombarded by United States planes and shells. Iraqis will take the war into the cities of the attacking nation, if it is attacked.

Military Training at Volunteer Camps Reported

AU1509143190 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1000 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Dogan Tilic report]

[Text] Saddam Husayn seems once more to be able to use the people's anger for his purposes. In training camps for volunteers around Baghdad, women, children, and old men are being trained for defense and attack. [Name indistinct], who is 37 years old, usually works as an art teacher at a Baghdad high school. The day we visited the camp she was crawling in the dust at a training camp in a Baghdad suburb. She was practicing precision shooting with a kalashnikov. Beside her was her 10-year-old son, who was also wearing the uniform of the Iraqi army of volunteers. The teacher told us that she has another two smaller children. She leaves the camp every evening to look after her household and to take care of the two children. However, she also told us that she is proud of her decision to fight as a volunteer against the U.S. enemies.

(Hairia Kasimhydai) is the commander of a group of 30 women in the same camp who are also volunteers. The youngest of them is 15 and the oldest 50. To me they seem completely different from the women in the U.S. Army whom I have seen on television and who are athletic, tall, and well-trained. The women in the Iraqi army of volunteers are mothers and often grandmothers, who, according to Mrs. Kasimhydai, are linked by one goal: We are all fighting to ensure food and milk for our babies, she stressed. Some of the teenagers in uniform, however, are so attractive that foreign photographers seem to see only these girls.

In Baghdad's [name indistinct] District I met with (Sultan Husayn al-Uwaidi). The 43-year-old lawyer is currently the commander of the (Kliati) camp, where 560 men between 18 and 70 years old are being trained for the fight on the front. Like himself, all these men are volunteers. Of course, it is difficult for a foreign journalist to judge whether all these men really joined the army voluntarily. The pressure exerted by the regime of Saddam Husayn is a burden for the country. Thus, it is not always clear to what extent fear is driving the volunteers to join the army. However, whenever we asked people in the streets about their reasons for joining the army, they expressed strong anti-Americanism and great sympathy for Saddam Husayn. The psychological atmosphere in the country does not resemble that of a country that attacked and occupied another state. The Iraqi people consider themselves to be the ones who are being attacked.

This also applies to (Al-Uwaidi). The lawyer assured me that his country wants to leave in peace. If the Americans attack us, we will reply and shatter them, he told me. Should there be a war, the map of the world will change. Asked whether, as an educated person, he does not see a restriction in the fact that he is living under an undemocratic one-party system, he answered that the one-party system was necessary because of the special conditions in his country. A law will soon be adopted that will allow the existence of more parties, he pointed out. Currently, we are concentrating on the defense of our country, he stressed.

The Iraqi media are constantly reporting about a steady increase in the number of volunteers. Information Minister Latif Jasim has confirmed that over 5 million members have so far joined the Army of Volunteers. According to the minister, even the Kurds are willing to defend their home country side by side with Iraqi soldiers. In northern Iraq, 50 percent of the volunteers are Kurds, he claims. Over 2 million people have apparently joined the Army in the northern provinces which are mainly inhabited by Kurds in the past few weeks. This is in contradiction with the Western view that the Iraqi Kurds might contribute essentially to Saddam Husayn's overthrow.

The name that the men and women at the (Eldura) camp have adopted is typical of the atmosphere that prevails in the whole country. They call themselves Grandfathers, Mothers, and Children against the U.S. Rambo Army.

Minister on 'U.S. Invasion' Impact on Oil Market

JN1509131590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 14 Sep (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi has hailed the 30th anniversary of the establishment of OPEC which is today, 14 September.

In a statement to INA, the minister said: On this day 30 years ago a meeting was held in Baghdad at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Iraq, the outcome of which was the establishment of an organization that has become one of the most renowned organizations in the world: OPEC. [passage omitted]

The oil minister said that Iraq has played a major role to keep OPEC united and strong to serve the interests of member states and to strive for stability in the oil markets to guarantee fair revenues for producers and ensure the availability of oil for all consumers without discrimination.

The outcome of Iraq's efforts was the July 1990 agreement which outlined the organization's strategic principles and defined the course of prices, the method of organizing production, and the planning of a gradual increase of prices, with $21 set as the minimum level of the OPEC oil basket. However, following the U.S. invasion of the Gulf region and the imposition of the unjust economic blockade on Iraq, prices have been disturbed on the market and undergone a big increase. Oil prices have now risen to $32, causing great harm to many countries in the world, especially underdeveloped countries.

The minister added: Instead of using its large oil reserves to stabilize the oil markets, the International Energy Agency resorted to pressuring a number of oil-producing countries to increase their production and to endanger the July 1990 agreement. But despite the feverish increase in production, and because of the continuation of the U.S. invasion, prices have not gone down and have remained unsteady since the beginning of this invasion.

This situation prompted Iraq, through its President Saddam Husayn, to declare an initiative on 10 September offering oil free of charge to Third World countries so as to ease their burden. This step is in complete harmony with the principled policy Iraq has adopted since 1973.

Concluding his statement to INA, Oil Minister 'Isam al-Jalabi stressed Iraq's adherence to its principled policy toward the OPEC. He called on the rest of the member states to maintain OPEC unity to enable it to achieve its objectives.

National Assembly Criticizes UN Resolution 667

JN1809180990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1446 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Sep (INA)—The National Assembly has affirmed that Resolution No. 667—like other resolutions, beginning with Resolution 660—is part of the unjust campaign waged by the United States and its allies against Iraq.

In a statement issued today, the National Assembly strongly condemned the serious resolutions and measures as well as the illegal procedures used to adopt them, urging the Security Council to be objective and independent in adopting resolutions that directly affect world peace and security and to avoid the dominance of the big powers. The following is the text of the statement:

On 14 September 1990, the Security Council issued Resolution No. 667 in which it condemned Iraq for its alleged attacks on some diplomatic missions in the Iraqi Kuwait, claiming that these measures are considered acts of aggression.

Resolution 667 is based on false information, and the Security Council has not in the first place tried to make sure of the facts. This conflicts with Article 39 of chapter seven of the Charter, which stipulates, if there is a claim of threat, violation, or an act of aggression, that the Security Council should make sure of the real existence of one or more of these before taking any measure such as the ones stated in its Resolution No. 667.

However, the UN Security Council once again hastened to issue Resolution 667 without listening to Iraq's viewpoint, or verifying France's claims. Such haste and injustice against Iraq confirms that the United States controls the UN Security Council, in the same manner that it has controlled all the previous resolutions, starting with Resolution 660, and that this is part of the unjust campaign waged by the United States and its allies against Iraq. It is worth noting that Iraq has repeatedly affirmed that such false allegations are completely devoid of truth and that Iraq respects all international norms and conventions, specifically the Vienna agreement on diplomatic relations and the Vienna agreement on consular relations.

The issuance of such hasty resolutions by the UN Security Council shows that there is a new trend with which the international community has not yet become familiar, a trend that unequivocally shows that this international organization is subservient to U.S. policy that seeks to impose its hegemony on the world through the UN Security Council and other international organizations.

The National Assembly, the representative of the Iraqi people, strongly condemns these serious resolutions and arrangements and this illegal method of adopting them, and calls on the UN Security Council to be objective and independent in its decisionmaking with respect to resolutions that have a direct bearing on world peace and security, and to avoid the hegemony of some big powers.

Maghreb Liberals Confront U.S. Interests

LD1409225690 Baghdad International Service in English 2000 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Welcome, dear friends, to this special program entitled: Maghreb liberals urge attacking U.S. interests.

National liberals in the Arab Maghreb countries on Wednesday called upon the Arab nation and the free peoples all over the world to hit at American interests everywhere to force Washington to eliminate the economic measures it imposed on Iraq. In a statement issued in Algeria the national liberals suggested there would be no end to the American schemes against Iraq and the Arab nation without a real and effective confrontation. The national liberals also stressed that there must be a strong and effective action which would enforce the American decision-makers to face reality. The national liberals said in their statement: In defense of our dignity and honour we are determined to directly confront the aggressors by attacking their targets and interests no matter where they may be.

It was not easy to take such a decision, especially as it would result in a great number of victims and losses. However, it is an option that we are being forced to take as there is no other alternative.

Meanwhile, chairman of the Jordanian House of Representatives, Mr. Sulayman Arar, hailed the heroic stand of Iraq in the face of the vicious campaign led by America and its allies against Iraq and the Arab nation. In a lecture he delivered on Tuesday night in the southern city of Ma'an, Mr. Arar said that the West led by America did not want to see Iraq a strong country capable of manufacturing its own weapons because that would jeopardize the security of Israel, which they created. Mr. Arar suggests that the West and America want Arab oil and other natural resources for nothing. He said in the light of this fact any nation that wants to live in dignity must sacrifice and be patient. He pointed out that the current battle would end in a total succes for Iraq and all the Arab nations in support of Iraqis.

And with this (?reference) I will come to the end of this special program entitled: Maghreb liberals urge attacking the United States interests.

Paper Comments on Amman Popular Conference

JN1609122390 Baghdad INA in English 0950 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sep, INA—AL-'IRAQ daily of Baghdad has confirmed that the popular conference of the Arab forces currently held in Amman is an important turning point for unity of the Arab militants against the imperialists and a serious contribution to mobilizing masses in all countries.

In its editorial the paper said that the battle was not of the Arabs alone against occupiers of Najd and Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] and the Arab Gulf waters, but it was the battle of all honest Moslems everywhere against the imperialists and Zionists who desecrated sanctities of the Arabs and Moslems with consent and support of traitor rulers Fahd and Husni.

The paper referred that the struggle solidarity and cohesion among the national Arab forces constitute the factor of most importance in the confrontation against the imperialist and Zionist designs which now assemble to launch a criminal aggression on Iraq, impose the colonialist domination on the region and achieve the Zionist scheme seeking for establishing "Great Israel" from the Euphrates to Nile.

The paper cited role of the Arab national activists during the '50s and '60s to defeat the imperialists and Zionists and crush conspiracies targetting the Arab nation, including images of popular resistance against parties of the tripartite aggression of 1956, war of June 1967, battles of liberation in the Arab Maghreb and solidarity with revolutions of Iraq, Syria and Egypt against the occupiers for national independence.

Minister Urges Arab Counterparts To Face Blockade

JN1709174890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Sep (INA)—Health Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id has sent a message to the Arab Health Ministers Council in which he stresses that the economic blockade imposed by U.S. imperialism, Zionism, and their allies against Iraq is a major violation of the humanitarian principles in this world.

He points out that the objective behind this blockade, which extends to deprive the Iraqi children from milk and the Iraqi people from medicine and food, is to starve the Iraqi people and halt their progress.

He urges the Arab Health Ministers Council to decisively face the U.S. and Zionist forces and their allies, which want to harm Iraq and the Arab nation.

Society Ready To Receive Foodstuffs, Medicine

JN1809180790 Baghdad INA in English 1523 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 18, INA—Iraqi Red Crescent Society announced its readiness to receive foodstuffs and medicines directly from the sisterly societies and through the League of the Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies in Geneva.

That came in a statement by a spokesman of the society today who said that the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, and pursuant to the charter of the League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the world, announces its full readiness for coordination and cooperation with societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in the world, particularly in the countries that have nationals in Iraq, in order to mitigate suffering of the foreigners residing in Iraq and secure their needs of food and medicines.

The spokesman stressed that prevention of food and medicines from peoples was considered a flagrant violation of all rules of the international humanitarian law, and putting conditions was considered an offending on a people like the people of Iraq who have their historical and humanitarian contributions to the whole world. [sentence as received]

Japanese Official, Delegation Arrive 18 Sep

JN1809185690 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad—Kaji Antoni Enoki [name as heard], member of the Japanese Parliament, arrived in Baghdad today leading a delegation on a visit to Iraq of several days. In a statement to INA, the Japanese parliamentarian expressed happiness with visiting Iraq, a strong country with an ancient civilization. He said that during the visit he will hold talks with Iraqi National Assembly officials on relations between the two friendly countries and means to promote them, in addition to the situation in the Arabian Gulf region. He affirmed that the Japanese people stand alongside the Iraqi people in their struggle to achieve peace and security in the region. He was received at the airport by a member of the Arab and International Relations Committee of the National Assembly.

Saddam Envoy to African States Returns Home

JN1809190090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Sep (INA)—Umid Midhat Mubarak, minister of labor and social affairs and President Saddam Husayn's envoy to the leaders of a number of African states, returned to Baghdad this afternoon.

During his tour, the president's envoy delivered messages from his excellency to the presidents of seven African nations. They are Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Uganda, and Ethiopia on bilateral relations, the recent developments in the Arab Gulf region, and the U.S.-Western presence in the Arabian Peninsula and the dangers it poses to peace and security in the region,.

Saddam Meets With Turkey's Bulent Ecevit 18 Sep

JN1909055590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0300 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] President Saddam Husayn yesterday received Bulent Ecevit, former Turkish prime minister, opposition Democratic Left Party leader, and director of news in the Turkish newspaper MILLIYET.

During the meeting, a press dialogue was held on the situation in the region, its developments, and relations between Turkey and Iraq. Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim attended the meeting.

Ramadan Receives Message From Vietnamese Envoy

JN1909094690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Sep (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, has received a written letter from Do Muoi, chairman of the Vietnamese Council of Ministers, addressed to President Saddam Husayn. The letter was handed to President Saddam by Tran Dinh Hoan, Vietnamese minister of labor, war invalids, and social welfare, who met with Taha Yasin Ramadan in Baghdad today.

During the meeting, the Vietnamese minister conveyed the greetings and support of the Vietnamese leadership and expressed the desire to continue the expanded cooperation with Iraq under the various circumstances.

Ramadan then asked the Vietnamese minister to convey President Saddam's greetings to the Vietnamese leadership and Iraq's pride in the close relations with Vietnam, its interest in expanding these relations in all areas, and the appreciation of its people and government for Vietnam's positions on the Arab issues.

INA has learned that the letter contains the Vietnamese Government's position on events in the region, the presence of the U.S. and foreign fleets in the Arabian Gulf, and the need to solve the problems within the Arab family apart from foreign interference.

The letter also contains Vietnam's eagerness to expand bilateral cooperation through the meetings of the Iraqi-Vietnamese joint committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation, which is currently holding a meeting in Baghdad to further promote bilateral relations.

RCC Member Shakir Retired 'for Health Reasons'

JN1809081790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0801 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] The official Iraqi newspaper, AL-WAQA'I', reported today that the Revolution Command Council [RCC], the highest ruling body in Iraq, has decided to pension off Sa'dun Shakir, a member of the RCC, for health reasons.

The newspaper clarified that this decision was made upon a request from Sa'dun Shakir, who announced that he cannot perform his duties any longer.

Company To Distribute Wheat Seeds to Farmers

JN1609171990 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 14 Sep 90 p 4

[Text] The Iraqi Company for Seed Production has taken the necessary measures to provide seeds for the wheat harvest next winter season.

The company's chairman told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that peasants and farmers can submit their applications within the next few weeks to the branches of the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry in the governorates to determine how much seed they need. They will then be sent to the seeds distribution centers to receive their shares directly without having to go to the company first.

He added that the seeds available at the company and its branches, which will be distributed to farmers, are to be used in cultivation.

Shamir 'Promised' No Green Line Settlement

TA1909080590 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 19 Sep 90 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Last week Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir conveyed a message to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in which he actually promised that Israel would not settle new immigrants beyond the Green Line. Sources in Jerusalem said that in his message Shamir stressed that a negligible number of immigrants had settled in the territories so far.

The message, which was conveyed by Ministers Yitzhaq Moda'i and Yuval Ne'eman in their meeting with Gorbachev last week, included a proposal to resume diplomatic relations between the two countries. According to Shamir, there is no hostility between the two countries today and there is no reason whatsoever to postpone the resumption of relations. Shamir also thanked the Soviet president for all he has done for Jewish immigration, and offered him technological, agricultural, and scientific assistance.

Shamir rejected the Soviet proposal to resume relations on the condition that Israel agree to an international conference on the Middle East. Nevertheless, in a special interview with HADASHOT, Shamir said that he does not object to the formal participation of the superpowers, including the Soviet Union, in the ceremony in which the peace treaties between Israel and the countries of the region and the Palestinians would be signed.

Shamir on Gulf, Syria, Ties With Superpowers

TA1909084290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Mikha Friedman, Gilat Levi, and political correspondent Natan Gutman—live]

[Friedman] Good morning, sir.

[Shamir] Good morning.

[Friedman] This morning's HADASHOT runs a poll according to which fear of war is the leading cause for anxiety in Israel: 60 percent of the population is concerned about the possibility of war. This, at least, was the situation when the poll was conducted about a month ago, in the heat of the Gulf crisis. What would you have replied, had you been asked a month ago and then again today on how you estimate the risk of war inherent in the Gulf crisis?

[Shamir] Naturally, there is still room for apprehension. This crisis has seen various developments and assumed dimensions that have changed from hour to hour. Although we are not directly involved, it is a known fact that the Iraqi ruler has evil designs of pulling us into the maelstrom in order to split the coalition confronting him through attacking Israel. Such an apprehension does exist, because at times, the most insane and illogical things happen. We should, of course, be on guard.

[Friedman] You said that the Iraqi ruler wants to pull us into the maelstrom. But at the outset of this crisis, you quoted Exodus 21:25, which says: Burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe. Does Saddam Husayn understand the precise meaning of this verse?

[Shamir] First of all, I did not quote the verse in the way you have, but I believe that if Saddam Husayn does any thinking at all, he should understand that Israel is not sitting by idly, and if anyone attempts to harm it, he will be punished very severely.

[Friedman] With regard to this, it was stated at the beginning of this crisis that Israel assumes Iraq does not have the capability of hitting Israel with missiles equipped with chemical warheads. Reports to the contrary, however, appeared in the last few days, saying that it is very possible Iraq does have missiles capable of carrying chemical warheads and reaching Israel. Does this substantively alter the Iraqi threat?

[Shamir] Many things get reported, and I am not responsible for them. Whatever the truth in these reports, any attack against Israel, whatever its nature, is dangerous. Israel must be prepared to anticipate any danger and any threat.

[Levi] Should our preparations not include the distribution of gas masks to the population?

[Shamir] Certainly; it has been planned and will be carried out at the appropriate time.

[Gutman] Mr. Shamir, how should we view the Soviet promise to stand by Israel in the event of an Iraqi attack? Does the change in the international balance alter Israel's status, too? Do we welcome a Soviet umbrella?

[Shamir] I would not advise viewing this statement as a new Soviet policy. So far, the USSR has not decided or announced an intention to take part in a military operation, if one takes place, in the Gulf. Neither has the USSR determined its stand on the question of Israel. There is a report contending that Gorbachev made a certain utterance, and if he has made it, it is a cause for joy. I would not counsel anyone, however, to rely on the report.

[Friedman] The report was brought to our attention by Foreign Minister David Levi, and my question is: What is your impression of the foreign minister? Does he not occasionally suffer from excessive optimism? Does he not paint pictures which are too rosy?

[Shamir] He does not suffer from excessive optimism. Doing one's job with an optimistic outlook is usually good, and he has reason to be satisfied with the results of his activities at the outset of his career in the Foreign Ministry.

[Levi] Mr. Shamir, did Israel obtain sufficient weapons and aid during Arens' visit in Washington? Will they offset the U.S.-Saudi arms deal?

[Shamir] I do not yet know the details of the defense minister's last conversation with his U.S. counterpart. We have heard only bits and pieces of what was said. His plane is landing at this very moment, and soon enough we will be able to talk with him and learn the precise details of what was promised and when the promises will be carried out. In any event, Israel most urgently needs certain items of equipment which are crucial for its defense, and it should receive them not in the framework of the ordinary military aid, which would mean equipment supplied according to the usual timetable in return for payment. We would like—we need—to receive the most vital items, otherwise, that in return for payment.

[Gutman] As the Iraqi crisis develops, it appears that a political solution is certainly feasible. How does Israel view such a possibility? Would a solution which restores the former situation without toppling Saddam Husayn be preferable to us?

[Shamir] No one has asked us for our opinions, and we are not party to their decisionmaking. I do not think anyone has decided anything yet, and that includes those circles which have to determine how this crisis is to be resolved. The State of Israel is not directly involved in this crisis. As I have already said, we have a certain concern that one side would like to harm us in order to damage the other side's position. We must be prepared to defend ourselves against this possibility.

[Gutman] Is there a need to topple that party which wishes to harm us?

[Shamir] At this moment, it is not our task.

[Einstein] Mr. Shamir, we are now coming to political issues. Only a month or so ago, press headlines dealt with the question of whether the Middle East political initiative is or is not making progress; Israel, Palestinians, and Jordan were all in the headlines. Now this entire issue has been forgotten. Is the Israeli Government's initiative defunct as a result of the Gulf crisis, or is it alive and waiting for an opportunity?

[Shamir] As we have said more than once, the Israeli peace initiative is very much alive. Naturally, since more pressing matters have to be resolved in the current crisis, any action pertaining to our initiative is being put off. The solution of the confrontation between Israel and the Arab world is in abeyance and waiting for its turn. Action in this matter will have to be taken, and the timing will be determined by circumstances, conditions, and possibilities.

[Einstein] And while this process is in abeyance, the concept of an international conference has reemerged. Will Israel be able to contend with a united U.S.-Soviet front on the international conference issue?

[Shamir] Such a front does not exist yet, nor is any one of these parties determined to hold an international conference for the solution of this problem, mainly because one of the principal elements in this conflict does not agree to such a solution. I cannot imagine that anyone will wish to call for an international conference considering Israel's refusal to participate. I see no international front against us, and I see no change in Israel's stand on this matter.

[Levi] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Can you see a possibility of Syria's joining some form of political process, when it is resumed? In fact, what can Syria expect from us?

[Shamir] I can imagine that the Israeli-Syrian conflict was not the main issue on the agenda of the secretary of state's talks with President al-Asad. It may have been mentioned somewhere in the course of the conversation. Our stand, however, is clear: We are ready to conduct peace negotiations with any Arab country willing to participate in such negotiations, and Syria is no exception. If Syria is willing to launch negotiations with us over all the disputed issues without preconditions, Israel will be ready and will even welcome such a move.

[Einstein] The territorial issue is certain to be raised in such negotiations, and the Golan Heights are legally an integral part of the State of Israel. Laws can be changed. How do you perceive the ideological tie between the Golan Heights and the greater State of Israel?

[Shamir] Different issues can—and will be—raised during negotiations, not merely territorial issues. I do not know why our people, our commentators, are so eager to introduce the possibility of Israeli concessions into any such negotiations.

What you have said is true: The Golan Heights are indeed an integral part of the State of Israel. This is indeed the situation. [passage omitted]

Views Foreign, Domestic Issues

TA1909090990

[Editorial report] Four leading Israeli newspapers on 19 September carry special Rosh Hashana interviews with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir: An interview by David Makovsky and Louis Rapoport on page 17 of Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English was held on 14 September; no dates and places are given for the interviews by Dan Shilon in Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (ROSH HASHANA TASHNA supplement) in Hebrew on pages 4 and 5 and by Avino'am Bar-Yosef on page A3 in Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew; Hanan Crystal and Ronit Antler in Tel Aviv HADASHOT (HADASHOT SHEL HAG supplement) in Hebrew on page 13 note that their interview was conducted on 16 September.

The interviews cover a wide spectrum of issues, including Israel's position on the Persian Gulf crisis; Israel's relations with the United States, Europe, and the

Soviet Union; the possibility of holding negotiations with Syria; the international peace conference; the instability in Jordan; the Ostrovsky affair; and the problems Israel must face in order to absorb the massive Soviet immigration and overcome its economic difficulties.

Addressing the crisis in the Persian Gulf in the interview carried by THE JERUSALEM POST, Shamir says that "it is as clear as day that if the Iraqi regime continues to exist, it is very doubtful that all the Gulf states will be able to hang on. They will fall like a house of cards." Shamir asserts that a containment strategy against Saddam Husayn is "a substitute for a radical change in the situation," and could only be applied as a "temporary situation." Shamir opines that "the status quo involves dangers for Israel," and that "as long as there is no change, the danger exists." Nevertheless, when asked if he believes there will be war, Shamir replies: "I hope not."

In the YEDI'OT AHARONOT interview, Shamir asserts that "it is possible" that Israel may have to get rid of Saddam Husayn if the United States fails to do so, explaining that "a situation may come to pass in which we are the only ones confronting Saddam Husayn, and then we will have to come up with an answer as to how to defeat this evil giant." MA'ARIV asks Shamir what fate he wishes for Saddam Husayn: The reply: "I hope he will end up where he deserves to be."

Shamir tells THE JERUSALEM POST that he thinks the United States is "not trying hard enough," or "investing enough" in its attempts to persuade the Arab states to enter peace talks with Israel. He states that "it is easier now than it has been at other times in the past" to achieve a state of nonagression with Syria and Saudi Arabia, explaining that the process "could be gradual, as that is how we began our ties with Eastern Europe." Shamir claims that he is "not afraid" that after the Gulf crisis is resolved the United States will pay back its Arab coalition partners by imposing a settlement on the Palestinian issue, saying that "if we do not give our agreement, it will not happen."

In YEDI'OT AHARONOT, the prime minister comments on the improving relations between the United States, Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia. He notes that "there is cause for concern in light of the United States' recent political moves. We make our voice heard in the right places. Right now, however, is not the appropriate time for drastic steps on our part in the political arena, which is unstable and dangerous enough as it is." Shamir calls the U.S. arms deal with Saudi Arabia "totally illogical," as "everyone knows that Saudi Arabia does not need such quantities of weapons and will never use them." "This is a most bizarre step, which may later become a great danger."

YEDI'OT AHARONOT points to the possibility that the recent developments in the Middle East have been positive and queries Shamir on how he views the rapprochement between the United States and Syria. Shamir claims that he is not "sure" that this premise is correct, saying that Syrian President al-Asad "does not see any contradiction between his current alliance with the West, and an abiding feeling of bitter hatred for Israel." Shamir states that "there are no...winds of change" in our region, there is "unanimity within the Arab world regarding the desire to get even with the State of Israel." In THE JERUSALEM POST interview, Shamir flatly rules out any territorial compromise with Syria, stipulating that "the Golan is part of the State of Israel, just as Jerusalem is part of Israel."

Another issue, also indirectly linked to the Persian Gulf crisis, is the growing instability in Jordan. Shamir promises THE JERUSALEM POST that "we will not do anything to overthrow (King Husayn) or anything against Jordan, if Jordan does not act against us. There is a danger that it will find itself dragged in by Iraqi agression."

A major topic discussed in all the interviews are the increasingly warmer relations between the Soviet Union and Israel, which recently led to a meeting between two Israeli ministers and Soviet President Gorbachev, and whether this should lead to a larger Soviet role in the Middle East. Shamir tells THE JERUSALEM POST that "the very invitation—along with the comprehensive discussion and Gorbachev's frankness with the Israeli ministers on the Soviet Union's problems and the search for ways to cooperate with Israel—this all points to the Soviet leaders' high estimation of the State of Israel and for the low profile we have maintained in the Gulf crisis," adding that if the Soviets resume full diplomatic relations with Israel "we will consult with them, just as we consult with other states—like European Community countries such as Britain or France—who have diplomatic ties with us." "We cannot say that they may not interfere in international affairs." Shamir tells MA'ARIV that "the previous state of affairs, which was characterized by a certain hostility, was unnatural." "It was an artificial product of an Arab offensive which exploited the special relationship between Israel and the United States." Shamir asserts that "Israel, since its inception and even before, had no anti-Soviet inclinations," and that "what is happening today is really a return to the natural state of affairs." Shamir opines that "the resumption of relations with the Soviet Union will have a positive effect on relations with the United States." Shamir postulates that "we should not put ourselves in a situation where all our eggs are in one basket."

Regarding the invitation to the Soviet Union to participate in the peace process, Shamir informs YEDI'OT AHARONOT that "we are not inviting the USSR to join the peace process as a judge. We are ready to work together in full cooperation in order to further mutual interests."

Shamir categorically rejects the idea of convening an international peace conference on the Middle East. In YEDI'OT AHARONOT, Shamir states that "we are not interested such a thing. We do not need an international conference today, in which all the elements professing extreme hostility toward Israel will participate." Despite the possibility that the Soviet Union may have changed its attitude toward Israel, Shamir asserts that "we are well aware what position will be taken by the majority at such a conference. We refuse to face an international tribunal." Shamir advises HADASHOT that Israel has "always insisted on direct negotiations with the Arabs, with our neighbors," claiming that this is the best way, and that "we do not need any other partners." Shamir notes in THE JERUSALEM POST that "if after the negotiations, people want to give any agreement the imprimatur of the UN, we will not oppose it."

Shamir reveals in YEDI'OT AHARONOT that the new Jewish year may witness "a new political plan" from Israel. "After the ongoing trends in the Middle East become clearer, we may very possibly propose new solutions which may be acceptable to other parties." The prime minister tells YEDI'OT AHARONOT that the new initiative will strive to attain "peace and acceptance."

THE JERUSALEM POST asks about the conditions the United States has given for agreeing to underwrite $400 million in housing guarantees for Soviet immigrants and about the chances for a U.S. write-off of Israel's military debts. Shamir stresses that Israel has already promised "that the money will not be invested in settling Soviet immigrants in Judaea and Samaria," and complains that "after all, Congress has decided to give guarantees in order to aid the absorption of Soviet immigrants, without any political or diplomatic interest." Regarding the debt waivers, Shamir claims that "we never considered asking for this. But once there was a proposal for debt concessions for Egypt, we thought we deserved it as well." Shamir tells YEDI'OT AHARONOT that "when the United States is distributing gifts and trying to strengthen the forces acting in the Middle East, it should not forget Israel, which is facing severe economic problems. There is a chance that Israel's debts will be canceled, but I cannot say so for sure."

In THE JERUSALEM POST, Shamir dismisses the allegations appearing in the Ostrovsky book about the Mosad as "all lies," written only "with the intention of hurting Israel." Shamir is sure that the book will have no far-reaching effects on the Mosad, telling YEDI'OT AHARONOT that the "Israeli intelligence community is very efficient and secure," and that the book will only have "a fleeting influence on public opinion."

Shamir is asked about the government's perceived failings on the economic front and in absorbing the massive immigration from the USSR. Shamir is aware that the absorption of Soviet immigration is a daunting task. He tells THE JERUSALEM POST that "it takes time." "It is a huge project." Shamir asserts that the government has prepared three far-reaching plans to deal with housing, employment, and the mobilization of resources. In HADASHOT Shamir admits he "is not sure that we are capable" of carrying all the burden of absorbing the Soviet immigrants, but that "we will try and do our best," and "if we cannot succeed 100 percent we will succeed 80 or 70 percent. I have no illusions regarding world Jewry, it is not the awesome force it is made out to be by our enemies." YEDI'OT AHARONOT reports the prime minister as saying that "the imposition of a greater burden is unavoidable," and that immigrant absorption "will always be troubled." Shamir, however, is optimistic, saying "that things are definitely improving" and that "any talk of social unrest is exaggerated, as the problems we are facing now are smaller than those we overcame in the past." Shamir says we are in the midst of "a difficult period in which all of Israel's problems are accumulating at once, and we have to confront them all simultaneously."

In THE JERUSALEM POST interview the prime minister expresses the hope that "a united Germany that has become one of the strongest countries in the world will maintain its special ties with Israel due to its historic responsibility to the Jewish people."

Shamir concludes all the interviews with Rosh Hashana greetings to the Israeli people. In wishing everyone a happy, peaceful, and prosperous year, he points to the importance of successfully absorbing the immigration wave from the Soviet Union, telling HADASHOT that "we are becoming stronger demographically, and this reflects on all the other issues. It cannot be said now that time is working against Israel; we are through with that. Time is on Israel's side.

'Not Certain' of Soviet Aid

TA1809113890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1100 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] During his meetings in Brussels, Foreign Minister David Levi reported yesterday that he had received a message from Soviet sources that Soviet President Gorbachev had informed Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz that if Iraq attacked Israel, the Soviet Union would come to Israel's aid. Levi did not disclose any further details about this message. This morning, however, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expressed certain doubts about the veracity of the message.

[Begin Shamir recording] No, I am not certain about the accuracy of this statement. At any rate we do not expect anyone to rush to our aid. We can defend ourselves, but of course we need the understanding of others, and the military equipement to do so. [end recording]

The prime minister was speaking with correspondents following a toast held in his office in honor of the new year. Shamir asserted that there have recently been encouraging intimations of a growing readiness for cooperation between Israel and the Soviet Union. In any case, Foreign Minister David Levi will be back this afternoon from Brussels, and will leave for New York next week to attend the UN General Assembly session there. During the session, Levi will also meet Soviet Foreign Minister

Shevardnadze, and the two men will undoubtedly have the opportunity to verify the accuracy of the Soviet message.

On Iraqi Threat

TA1809175290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expressed the belief that if the Iraqi president manages to inflict even the slightest injury on Israel, it will cause the world terrible damage. The free world has a crucial interest in standing by our side, he said. The prime minister was speaking at a ceremony marking the new year at Likud headquarters in Tel Aviv. His remarks were reported by our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz.

[Begin Shamir recording] It is clear to each and every one of us that that very same tyrant who wants to become the leader of the Arab world also wants to attack Israel as soon as he has the chance, so he can divide the coalition arrayed against him and gather the Arab masses and the entire Arab nation behind him. If, God forbid, he succeeds in even the slightest fraction of such an attempt, he may inflict terrible damage on that part of the world which has united against him. Therefore, there is a clear-cut common interest here: that the Western and free world stand at our side. If need be, we will stand alone, but it is desirable, necessary, and logical that we should stand together with our partners in interest and in principle. [end recording]

Addressing reports that Foreign Minister David Levi had been told by Soviet representatives that their country would defend Israel if it were attacked by Iraq, the prime minister said that a later talk indicated that Soviet representatives had made no such remarks.

Levi Sees 'Positive Change' in Ties With U.S.

TA1909071790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Me'ir Einstein and political correspondent Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Good morning, Foreign Minister David Levi.

[Levi] A very good morning to you.

[Einstein] When you were in Brussels, you were quoted as saying that Gorbachev had told the Iraqis that the Soviet Union will defend Israel if Iraq attacks it. Yesterday, however, the prime minister said at a Rosh Hashana ceremony that there has probably been a misunderstanding, and that the Soviet utterance has been misinterpreted.

[Levi] One might think I myself held a conversation with Gorbachev, and that he spoke Russian, which I do not understand. Let us get back to issues at hand, and let us do it seriously.

[Einstein] Well, what was said, then?

[Levi] You asked a question, so listen. After my talks with the EC in Brussels, and after extensive debates with Europe's 12 foreign ministers, a news conference was held where I was asked whether the Soviet policy toward Israel has changed favorably. I noted that at this very time, a Foreign Ministry delegation is visiting Moscow, holding meetings with Soviet Foreign Ministry representatives, and discussing serious bilateral issues as well as various issues pertaining to our region in anticipation of my meeting with the Soviet foreign minister, Mr. Shevardnadze, in New York next week. This is a precedent; nothing like this happened in the past, and it heralds—I hope very much—an improvement in our relations.

Secondly, two of my colleagues did meet with Mr. Gorbachev, and the meeting itself is a very positive development and a precedent, too.

Thirdly, there have been visits by officials and representatives of various organizations, both ours and theirs. Also, we must not forget the Jewish exodus from there.

Fourthly, I have learned that Mr. Gorbachev has warned the Iraqi foreign minister against attacking Israel. He did not say they would support Iraq if that happened. On the contrary, he said the Soviet Union would side with Israel. And that is all.

[Einstein] Are you implying that you have properly understood the message you received?

[Levi] Just a minute, just a minute, just a minute. First of all, I am glad to have received the message. And second, Mr. Gorbachev made these remarks not to me nor to any elements of the Israeli Government. I heard it from an element who reported what he had heard. So, first, I am glad to have heard it, and second, I do not propose that we send the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] on vacation. We must do all that is necessary to maintain security. Where security is concerned, Israel has always relied on itself.

Also, we are making efforts to obtain the necessary equipment and means. In this respect, I am glad for the positive change which has taken place in the U.S. Administration where the President and the secretary of state are indeed keeping the promise they had made to me during my recent visit there. I will continue discussing with them an increase in future aid.

[Golan] Then the question, Mr. Levi, is how is it that Israel's prime minister, Mr. Shamir, does not possess such a vital piece of information. And, although the IDF will certainly not be sent on vacation, the prime minister does not know of any such commitment or such utterance by the Soviet president.

[Levi] Again, do I have to speak about whether the prime minister does or does not know about my talks with Mr. Gorbachev? I heard a report on this, and am glad about it. I suggest we do not turn it into a strategic position on which Israel will base its policies.

[Einstein] That is obvious.

[Levi] Everyone will agree that such an announcement is good. Whatever the Soviet president's exact remarks were, I suggest that we rejoice at the positive development in the stance of the Soviet Union, which used to side with our enemies, and is now expressing opposition to aggression. As for our security, we will rely on no one. But, this is a superpower which used to side with our enemies, supplied them with weapons, and supported them with an uncompromising stance; it has changed its policy and is now closer to an understanding and, I hope, the resumption of relations with us in the future. The latter is the task of the Israeli Government through the Foreign Ministry, and we will continue taking action in that direction.

[Golan] Mr. Foreign Minister, when you attend the UN General Assembly meeting in New York, you will again meet with Secretary of State Baker. This morning's publications contend that you have received a message from Baker implying that if the Israeli peace initiative fails, that subject disliked by the Israeli Government—the international conference—will be raised again.

[Levi] Things should be understood simply as they are, without philosophical analyses. We are holding a dialogue with the U.S. Administration. In the not too distant past, there was tension and somewhat of a rift between us. I believe now we discuss the future openly, as friends, as allies.

In my talks in Washington, I raised the question of the nature of Israel's position after the Gulf crisis is settled. Israel will not wait on the sidelines while various coalitions are being forged, and it is therefore vital that every action taken after the crisis—political and otherwise, strategic and geopolitical—should be coordinated with Israel. Well, this issue was found acceptable. Also, the secretary of state and I will meet next week, and although I cannot say that Israel's stand has been accepted in its entirety, there has been a big change in our favor. The pressure we felt months and weeks ago no longer exists. They know what our stand is, and we will formulate a stand together. They also know what Israel rejects.

[Golan] Are you bringing new ideas to the meeting with Baker? Have you agreed to do some thinking until your meeting between Washington and New York?

[Levi] Certainly. Both he and I will come with ideas, but not ideas born out of pressure or out of a question or questions which require a yes or no. The style and nature of the understanding between us have changed favorably. This is the course we will take.

Israel, too, is interested in promoting the peace process, perhaps even more so than any other player. I would like to remind you of a development of utmost political significance: The United States has accepted Israel's request that it take action in its coalition with Arab countries which it defines as moderate. The secretary of state has told me that he raised the issue as I had demanded: that the state of war Arab countries maintain against Israel should be stopped, and that a process be launched in which hazards are removed and steps toward peace are taken. Without that, there will be no peace and the situation will remain unchanged. The United States is indeed doing just that. While in the past such moves were made feebly, now the secretary of state has told me that he has taken action toward that goal: He discussed it with Saudi Arabia and with al-Asad in Syria. He is optimistic because they did not reject the idea, and the United States will pursue this course of action together with Israel.

[Einstein] Foreign Minister David Levi, I thank you, and I wish you a very happy new year.

[Levi] Thank you. I wish you and all people in Israel a happy new year.

Levi Comments on Results of Visit to Brussels

TA1809171790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Gadi Hitman at Ben-Gurion Airport on Levi's return from Brussels—live]

[Text] [Hitman] Mr. Minister, I would like to ask you if you achieved what you went to Brussels for, especially in view of the fact that the trip took place during the Gulf crisis and the invasion of foreign embassies in Kuwait by Iraqi troops?

[Levi] There is no doubt that the atmosphere in which our discussions were conducted, the EC's readiness to advance on the issues vital to us, and the fact that they did not bring up any sort of sanctions or the idea of dispatching a special envoy to supervise or report on events in Judaea and Samaria, are all expressions of a new atmosphere that we have been cultivating for months. We have been investing special efforts in Europe, and these now find expression in warmer ties and an ongoing dialogue with the EC. All the aforementioned facts show our discussions were held in a good atmosphere, in genuine friendship, and with a better understanding for Israel's needs than in the past.

In reference to events in the Gulf, we had an opportunity in a closed meeting with the 12 foreign ministers to express our views and to hear from them. I believe the effort the Foreign Ministry has been investing in Europe, which takes into account its upcoming economic unity—since it will now become an economic superpower of the first order—is bearing fruit. We have ties with it and will continue to do so. Our trade with Europe is a large part of Israel's foreign trade. All these facts oblige Israel to renew the friendship with the EC existing prior to the recent disagreements and to rebuild them on the basis of joint interests and greater understanding, without pressures or sanctions.

[Hitman] Mr. Minister, during your visit to Brussels you were quoted as saying that Mikhail Gorbachev told Tariq 'Aziz two weeks ago in Moscow that if Iraq dares to attack Israel the USSR would come to Jerusalem's aid. Is that what you really said?

[Levi] I did not speak to Gorbachev, and he did not speak to me. The remarks were based on sources who were told that, and I quoted those sources. It is good to know that, especially since it was not said to us but to the Iraqis themselves. Nevertheless, Israel must depend on itself for anything to do with its security. It must take the necessary measures—which it does—and make sure that it has the necessary means for its security.

[Hitman] Mr. Minister, do you hope for a political breakthrough in your talks next week with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze?

[Levi] We should remember that in addition to the meeting between my two colleagues [Ministers Moda'i and Ne'eman] and Mr. Gorbachev, there was another important visit to Moscow: the one held by the Foreign Ministry delegation, which was invited by the Soviet Foreign Ministry via a special envoy who came to me on behalf of Mr. Shevardnadze. The discussions, which were partly on bilateral issues and partly on regional subjects, referred to practical matters and were conducted in a good atmosphere, as I have been told by my colleagues who returned from there.

On Baker's Security Remarks

TA1809190390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Report by Jack Katzenell]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Levi told a news conference at Ben-Gurion Airport he had found much greater understanding in the EC for Israel's vital interests than in the past. [passage omitted]

Asked about Israel's prospects about receiving a favorable response to its requests for more arms from the United States, Levi said: I can only tell you what Secretary Baker told me. In all that concerns our vital security needs, Baker said, the matter was understood, Israel's requests will be discussed in a sympathetic light, and soon I would receive a reply, and Secretary Baker assured me that it would be positive, Levi said. [passage omitted]

Shamir Seen Leaning to Soviet Peace Formula

TA1809125390 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 18 Sep 90 p 9

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "Shamir Is Glancing at Moscow"]

[Text] It is easy to distinguish between the instances in which Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir genuinely denies a false report, and others in which his denial is made for tactical purposes only and is made with a wink. When the denial is genuine, it sounds as such: It is wholehearted, angry, uttered with trembling lips, and is accompanied by extreme words such as "a gross lie." When Shamir makes his denial smilingly and playfully, using his famous "Oh, well..." combination of words, one had better believe the original version...

Recently, Shamir has given us the benefit of two denials: one angry, and therefore, genuine; and the other affable and smiling and, therefore, dubious. And the two denials are in fact two sides of the same issue.

When the U.S. bang on Saddam Husayn's head failed to materialize, there were reports in the United States that Jerusalem was putting pressure on the White House to hurry and take advantage of the military option. This report was very angrily denied by Shamir. A few days later, the Soviet Union published its plan for an international conference to solve the Iraq crisis and the rest of the Middle East problems, including the Palestinian problem, in one fell swoop. Shamir surprised his observers with an affirmative, albeit reserved, initial reaction. Several hours later he corrected himself, saying that Israel is ready to participate in an international conference over the Kuwait crisis, but not over the future of the territories.

This "correction" should be viewed cautiously, while the assumption that Shamir was signaling to the Soviets, and that he had changed his mind for tactical purposes only—as a result of consternation on the part of the Americans—should be accorded the greater credibility.

Indeed, it is highly probable that Shamir is truly and genuinely not interested in a war between the United States and Iraq, and that he wishes to encourage the Soviets, who have been investing indefatigable efforts in their attempt to dissuade the Bush administration from resorting to a military option in the Gulf crisis.

A few days before the Helsinki summit, Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon flew to Moscow on a mystifying visit. He may have left without a definite aim, but he was certainly not looking for prefab houses in the Soviet Union... While a big question mark hovers over Ari'el Sharon's trip, Moda'i and Ne'eman made big and loud press headlines with their meeting with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. Although the two ministers have kept secret the contents of their talk with Gorbachev, it is very clear that Shamir viewed their trip favorably, and that he was almost certainly party to the decision to exclude from the meeting Arye Levin, Israel's envoy to Moscow, who would have been obliged to report to Foreign Minister David Levi. The brouhaha which accompanied 'Ezer Weizman's trip to Moscow and the exclusion of the Israeli envoy from Weizman's meeting with Shevardnadze is still quite fresh in the collective memory.

Why does Shamir fear war? First, because of its circumstances; second, because of its possible outcomes.

It would be very undesirable to Shamir if any comprehensive strategic move, such as a war against Iraq, is made without Israeli participation. And it is absolutely obvious that Israel will not be included, for even now U.S. policy consists of excluding Israel from the picture; if Israel has reaped praise in Washington, it is not for what it has done, but for what it has not. King Fahd and President al-Asad's position in Arab public opinion is difficult as it is, and the inclusion of Israel in a war against Iraq may cause armies they had sent against Saddam to rise against them.

The more Shamir realizes that the Americans are determined to take action, the more concerned he is for Israel's position as a strategic ally. All the feelers he has sent in the direction of the Americans have resulted in negative findings: They are writing off the debt only of new strategic allies, the Egyptians; upsetting the balance of power to Israel's disadvantage, and massively so, by striking arms deals with Saudi Arabia and Egypt; and refusing to come to Israel's aid in financing the absorption of immigrants. In addition, they have rejected Israel's appeal for real-time satellite information on issues relevant to the Gulf crisis.

The very outbreak of a war in which Israel is not a partner, when all the processes initiated now will materialize and be accelerated, can in itself cause serious deterioration in Israel's status. The situation is likely to become graver whatever the outcome of the war: If the Americans win, they will know whom to thank; the international coalition, with a security council of a new kind—one with authority—may then find time for a coercive solution of the territories problem, which may not exactly be in accordance with trends prevalent in the Likud Central Committee. If, God forbid, Saddam has the upper hand, the United States is likely to develop a new, isolationist attitude to the Middle East. After all, it buys only about 10 percent of its oil in the Gulf, and its involvement in the Kuwait crisis stems from political, rather than purely financial reasons. The full extent of the damage to Israel as a result of such an outcome of a desert war is difficult to predict. Saddam does not have to take New York to win the war. He can lose his entire army, as long as he emerges alive from the debris to create massive ferment throughout the Arab world—and who can foresee the outcome of that?

Therefore, the support Shamir has voiced for the Soviet proposals has been properly understood in Moscow, which ignored his feeble denial and spread a hearty welcome for Moda'i and Ne'eman.

Shamir understands that Israel will be able to preserve its position only if the process allots it a role. Since Israel has been disqualified from having a military role, it can have one in a political process only. And this is where Shamir faces a grave dilemma between his cabinet's character and his personal outlook, and Israel's strategic needs at this critical hour.

Right now there are two models for a political process, and both can create havoc inside his government. The first one is the U.S. model, which makes Cairo the center of activity and opens with a direct Israeli-Palestinian move under Egyptian auspices. This model has already caused the collapse of the unity government. On the eve of the Kuwaiti crisis, Egypt was ready to give up the idea of hosting the meeting in its capital and was considering moving the talks to Geneva. Now, however, in light of Cairo's battle for hegemony amid the new alliances consolidating in the Arab world, neither the United States nor Egypt would be willing to forgo holding the talks in Cairo. That is especially true since, as part of the effort to consolidate the PLO-Cairo link—or a Palestinian government-in-exile based in Cairo—a political process along the lines of the U.S. model is sorely needed to help establish a Palestinian center in Cairo, and not somewhere else.

If before the Gulf crisis Shamir could not have moved forward along the lines of the U.S. model, even had he wanted to—and he probably did not want any such thing—it goes without saying that he cannot do so now, after the Kuwaiti crisis has turned everything upside down and the PLO's moderate wing is trapped with Saddam Husayn while the radicals in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the pro-Syrian terror organizations headed by Abu- Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] and Ahmad Jibril, of all people, will be supporting the Cairo axis. The PLO moderates who drop out of the Baghdad alignment will not be strong enough to start a political process. The only figure so far who has challenged 'Arafat's policy out loud is Hani al-Hasan, and that is definitely not enough. Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] has expressed his reservations, but he continues to make things very unpleasant for Shamir, and he [not further specified] would prefer the second model, which is the international conference proposed by the Soviets, and he intimated as much on the eve of the Helsinki summit.

There are signs that the Americans are aware of Shamir's thoughts, and their pandering to Foreign Minister David Levi can be explained as an attempt to gain a friend, in light of Shamir's pro-Soviet reflections. That is also the main reason why the Foreign Ministry's representative in Moscow was kept outside the door.

After Levi's visit to Washington, Secretary of State Baker arrived in the Middle East. When he reached Cairo it was leaked to Radio Monte Carlo that during a meeting with the Israeli foreign minister both men discussed ways to circumvent the problems that foiled the Baker initiative in the days of the unity government. There was a proposal that the Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers establish some sort of peace committee that would nominate the Palestinian delegation for negotiations, with the kind help of the United States, obviously. The veracity of this report is still unclear, but it is evident, at any rate, that Levi did not bring this proposal to the Israeli Cabinet, and if he does it is doubtful that Shamir would support it.

Shamir cannot further any political idea that places Israel and the Palestinians at center stage, because Ha'etzni [a right-wing Tehiya Knesset member], not to mention Ari'el Sharon, would not permit it. He can only back a political plan that keeps the Palestinian problem on the sidelines, if it figures in it at all. That is the way he interprets the Israeli Government's peace plan, because the major part of it concerns the normalization of relations with the Arab states, and not the Palestinian problem.

Now the Kuwaiti crisis, along with the severe dangers it entails, has also brought about a rare chance for progress in that kind of a political process. Saddam Husayn has done Shamir a great service by diverting the Palestinian problem to the sidelines. He has created a potential channel for bilateral dialogue between Israel and Iraq about issues not directly connected to the Palestinians. Such dialogue would first deal with the demilitarization of the Middle East and the removal of dangerous weapons and later go on to cover regional economic cooperation. It is possible that 'Arafat smelled the danger in time, and that could also be one of the reasons he is clinging to Saddam Husayn's coattails now.

Just prior to the crisis the Soviets had especially stressed this aspect of the implementation of glasnost in the Middle East, and they published their position on the eve of the Malta summit and afterward. Their view of a Middle East peace conference increasingly came to be a regional security conference, and less a conference concentrating on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Western Europe has just recently adopted a similar position.

The Americans are not talking to Shamir not only because he is so taciturn over the telephone, but because they are beginning to sense that he is no longer as pro-American as in the past. Actually, he was already considered no longer "one of the gang" when he killed the Baker initiative.

Nevertheless, Shamir cannot accept the international conference formula, because it links the Kuwaiti crisis with the Palestinian problem—and he cannot get that past his government. He is also famous for his opposition to the international conference, and his detractors would have an easy job of making his life miserable, especially if he were to come out with different policy guidelines than those agreed upon by David Levi and the United States. He would prefer to look for frameworks that would circumvent this difficulty and would divert the political process from the Palestinian problem to the issue of regional security.

Regional arrangements would accord Israel renewed significance, because Israel is the bridge between Cairo and Damascus, and is Iraq's gateway to the Mediterranean Sea. At a time when Israel is struggling with burgeoning economic problems stemming from the need to absorb mass immigration, along with new military requirements, only such arrangements could offer Israel the slightest chance of surmounting its new challenges.

We must understand that Baghdad is aware of Shamir's difficulties with the United States, and of his glances toward Moscow. Contrary to what could be expected, the Palestinian problem is not at the top of Iraq's priorities. Israel has a minor role in Iraqi propaganda, and we have yet to hear the kind of slogan that was common during the Iran-Iraq war: namely, that the road to Jerusalem goes through Kuwait.

Saddam Husayn believes he will emerge victorious from the current confrontation. In all his appearances he radiates the self-confidence of someone who is convinced he is holding all the aces. He is not playing the Palestinian card. Is that just a coincidence, or is there more to it than that?!

Shamir Expresses Annoyance With Genscher

TA1809112090 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Sep 90 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Makovsky and news agencies]

[Excerpts] At a meeting yesterday between Foreign Minister David Levi and the 12 EC foreign ministers in Brussels, there were no signs that common opposition to Iraq's Saddam Husayn has healed political differences between the EC and Israel over the Palestinian issue. [passage omitted]

Levi termed the talks "very open, friendly and constructive."

In private meetings, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has expressed his annoyance with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. Senior Israeli officials said that Genscher was pushing for a resolution including some type of linkage between a solution to the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli peace process, but this was rejected by other EC countries.

Israel has often looked to West Germany as a leading advocate of its policies in the EC, and last month Levi met with Genscher in Bonn.

Sources said that the EC foreign ministers asked the Brussels- based EC Commission to "re-examine" the postponing of 18 new scientific projects with Israel in light of the gradual reopening of West Bank universities.

Earlier this year, the commission halted such cooperation to protest against the closing of Palestinian universities since the start of the intifadah.

The EC officials are believed to have agreed to consider Israel's request to upgrade its trade agreements before European economic integration in 1992, but no commitments were made. Levi also called for more loans from the European Investment Bank. Israel runs a deficit of about $1.9b. in its annual $11b. trade relationship with the EC.

AL-FAJR Assails Baker's Talks in Syria

TA1809162190 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 15 Sep 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Why This Political Courtship?"]

[Text] There is general agreement that the Gulf crisis, generated by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, is an Arab affair and should remain so. Hence, the condemnation and denunciation of the U.S. military buildup in the region. From this premise also came the disapproval expressed by the Arab people of the participation of some Arab regimes with the United States in actions that preclude an Arab solution to the conflict.

The "visit" by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to Damascus yesterday, during which he met with the president of the Syrian regime, is a cause for ridicule of and disappointment with this regime, which has been characterized only by doubtful and suspicious initiatives and moves.

Baker wants to be sure that Hafiz al-Asad will continue his "firm opposition" to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, not to ascertain al- Asad's desire to retrieve the Golan, for example, and regain lost dignity.

Since the talks between Baker and al-Asad, which lasted four and a half hours, were held in a "friendly atmosphere," they definitely ignored Arab interests. The talks did not add new glory to Syria, nor were they held "for the sake of a single Arab nation that has an immortal message," but they further complicated the extremely puzzling Syrian position.

What has the United States offered the Arab nation and its causes, foremost of which is the Palestinian cause, to be worthy of confidence? Did the United States station forces in Najd and al- Hijaz for the sake of the colored eyelids of the custodian of the two holy mosques, or for oil?

Any dialogue between Washington and Damascus cannot possibly be in the Arab nation's interest, and this is a bitter fact.

The regime in Damascus, therefore, should stop clinging to narrow self-interests, which are akin to disavowing the aspirations of this nation, if not a great betrayal of the Arab people.

We ask: Is it not ironic that we are witnessing this political courtship between Washington and Damascus?

AL-NAHAR Says Iran, Jordan To Resume Ties

TA1809143690 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 18 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] AL-NAHAR has learned from a reliable source that diplomatic relations between Jordan and Iran will be resumed this month. This step comes in the wake of Iran's pro-Iraqi stance in confronting the Western camp, led by the United States. A high- level Jordanian economic delegation from the private sector will visit Tehran shortly to discuss the expansion of cooperation between the two countries.

'Arafat Arrives; Says Saddam Ready To Negotiate

JN1909083690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Sep 90 pp 1,5

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat arrived here Tuesday saying that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn was prepared to negotiate a political solution to the Gulf crisis with the United Nations secretary-general or directly with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader also asserted that the sacking of the American air force chief of staff had shown that the U.S. military build-up in Saudi Arabia was aimed at killing Iraqis rather than defending Saudi Arabia.

'Arafat, who met with Saddam early Tuesday, was quoted as saying in an interview with the American Hearst group of newspapers that he was "optimistic we can achieve a political solution if there is a positive signal" of willingness by the U.S., the U.N. or Saudi Arabia to negotiate an end to the crisis.

"If there is the will on the American side to find a solution, I am sure there is a way and I am not saying this in vain or in a vacuum. I am speaking from a strong concrete position after my talks here," 'Arafat said in the interview, conducted by Hearst editor John P. Wallach in Baghdad shortly after the Palestinian leader's meeting with the Iraqi president. A copy of the Hearst interview was made available to the JORDAN TIMES Tuesday.

Wallach quoted 'Arafat as saying that Saddam understands "there has to be with an international umbrella" and that the only way to defuse the growing tension is for U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and King Fahd to be brought into negotiations.

King Fahd "is the main partner. He is the main partner required for a solution," 'Arafat said. Asked if Saddam was willing to meet with him, the PLO leader said: "If an effort is made to arrange it, yes."

He said that Saddam had repeated, on an almost daily basis, his public pledge that Iraq has, and never had any intention of invading Saudi Arabia because King Fahd had specifically requested the Iraqi leader to provide these constant assurances.

Asked how he knew that Saddam was willing to host a visit to Baghdad by the U.N. Secretary-General and desire for him to play a mediating role, 'Arafat said: "I have understood that he (Saddam) is willing. Don't press me more."

"Truly, he (Saddam) is looking to find a comprehensive agenda, an open agenda, including Kuwait, and other Arab issues," 'Arafat said.

He said that Iraq remains prepared to discuss withdrawing its troops from Kuwait and restoring a legitimate Kuwaiti government to power, perhaps even headed by a member of the previous royal family, the al-Sabahs, so long as it is not the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

The Iraqi leader also is "flexible" on the issue of Westerners held in Iraq and is prepared to release all of the foreigners who have been detained as guests of the Iraqi government once the United States provides assurances to the U.N. that it will not attack.

He suggested the United Nations play the key role in paving the way for talks between Saddam and King Fahd, noting that Perez de Cuellar has a responsibility to mediate even though the Security Council, in seven unanimous resolutions, has backed the U.S. and Saudi positions and condemned the Iraqi invasion.

"This is an international crisis," said 'Arafat. "It is one of his duties to continue, not only here and there."

He said that the U.N. chief did not get any assurances from Vietnam or Kampuchea or Namibia or South Africa before involving himself in negotiations to help end conflicts in those "hotspots."

Therefore it is not fair for him to demand any guarantees from Iraq before making an effort to find out if a settlement is possible, the PLO leader said.

"It is part of his responsibilities, he added. [no closing quotation mark as published]

"No one has suggested he only work when he knows he will get successful results."

Asked if Saddam had expressed a willingness to withdraw from Kuwait and permit the legitimate government to return to power, 'Arafat said: "I prefer not to give the details. I am not the official spokesman of the Iraqi government."

"But I want to stress a point," he said. "I am optimistic we can achieve a political solution once there is approval by any means, by any channel, from the American government that they are willing to achieve this peaceful solution."

A senior Iraqi Foreign Ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed that Iraq has asked the United States to open a higher-level dialogue in an effort to deescalate the seven-week-old crisis, the Hearst report said.

The Iraqi official said: "My nation is prepared for talks on any level without preconditions." He said his government had not formally requested a visit by Perez de Cuellar but added that he "is welcome to come here at any time."

The main channel of communications between the United States and Iraq has been through Joseph C. Wilson IV, the deputy chief of mission at the U.S. embassy in Baghdad. U.S. officials have refused earlier efforts by Iraq to boost the level of contacts.

Saddam even offered to debate Bush on television, an offer that was immediately rejected by the White House.

A U.S. embassy official here said that the latest Iraqi move is a ploy because Iraq refuses to withdraw its troops from Kuwait prior to the start of such talks.

'Arafat said that is unfair because Iraq is not demanding the withdrawal of U.S., Egyptian, British, French and other multinational forces from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf before beginning talks to resolve the crisis.

"Why are you not opening this dialogue with him? I have the right to ask why Mr. Perez de Cuellar didn't come to Baghdad? Why did he go only to Amman?," asked 'Arafat. "If you want to arrive at a settlement, you have to go to the two parties, not only one only," he said. Ignoring Iraq is a "fatal mistake," he said.

The U.N. chief met Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Amman last month in talks that failed to produce any progress. Asked if Saddam is ready to meet with Perez de Cuellar in Baghdad, the PLO leader replied: "Yes, I am sure of it."

'Arafat repeated upon arrival in Amman that his visit to Baghdad was aimed at pushing for a political solution to the Gulf crisis "despite the serious statement by the U.S. Air Force chief of Staff which revealed that the aim of the American military build-up in the Gulf region is not to defend any Arab country but to attack Baghdad and the Arab Iraqi people." The Air Force Chief of Staff, General Mike Dugan, was dismissed by Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, one day after Dugan was quoted as saying in published reports that U.S. military authorities had drawn up a list of targets to be hit in air strikes on Baghdad, including President Saddam Husayn and his senior aides.

"It is a serious issue we should be aware of," 'Arafat was quoted as saying by the Jordan news agency, PETRA, in an arrival statement.

'Arafat also attacked the Egyptian media for their assault on PLO leaders, saying that such criticism also harms the Palestinian people.

In reply to a question on expulsion of Palestnians from some Arab countries, including Qatar, 'Arafat said the PLO was committed to "shouldering its national, pan-Arab and ethical responsibilities towards the Palestinian people..."

Shortly after arrival, 'Arafat, who is accompanied by PLO Executive Committee Member Salah Khalaf, was the guest of honour at a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Mudar Badran. It was attended by parliament speakers, cabinet members and Palestine National Council official.

'Arafat later met with Geoerge Habash and Nayif Hawatimah, leaders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine respectively. Habash and Hawatimah are in Amman after a three-day Arab Conference here on the Gulf crisis

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Badran Says U.S. 'Loser' in Military Option

JN1909075190 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Sep 90 pp 1, 6

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Rabab Mango]

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Tuesday he saw little chance of an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait if force was used against Iraq and that the United States would be the loser, in terms of objectives at least, if Washington chose a military option to resolve the Gulf crisis.

In an interview with the Jordan Times and its sister Arabic daily Al Ra'y, the prime minister also called on the international community to support the Iraqi initiative of Aug. 12 which calls for linking the Gulf crisis to the Palestinian problem.

Mr. Badran expected that, in the event of war breaking out in the Gulf, there will be a major devastation of oil fields in the Gulf, leaving the world with only half the reserves that are available now.

On the national economy, Mr. Badran stressed that his government's major preoccupation at the present is preparing the 1991 budget, given the economic hardships and uncertainty brought about by the Gulf crisis.

Following is the full text of the interview:

Q: Did the U.S.-Soviet summit in Helsinki succeed in halting the danger of war in the Gulf and making way for diplomatic action?

A: Jordan's position, which was presented to the United States during His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Washington following the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, ruled out a military option. The American president's reply was that the United States will not be the first to start military confrontation in the Gulf, and this view was later confirmed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

President Bush and his secretary of state had both said that an embargo on Iraq was necessary if a peaceful solution is to be reached. This concept was relayed to the Soviet ambassador who visited Amman just before the King's trip to North Africa and Europe. The same view was conveyed in London to the Soviet ambassador there who had a meeting with King Husayn. Therefore, I believe that the Helsinki summit has ruled out the military option as a means to solve the Gulf crisis and reaffirmed diplomacy as the means to achieve peace.

Q: Do you therefore believe that the Helsinki summit was positive? What is your view?

A: In the light of what I have just said, I believe that the summit yielded positive results.

Q: Do you think that the Soviet Union had a major influence in issuing the Helsinki resolutions?

A: Iraq had taken into consideration right from the start that the United Nations would not bless the occupation of another country because such move would not be approved by countries of the world. But, from a pan-Arab point of view, Kuwait was originally Iraqi land.

The Soviet Union's position was clear and it opposed the occupation of another country by war and therefore the Soviet Union and the United States agree on this point and, together with the Western nations, they all call for a withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait. I believe that there can be no withdrawal if force is used since the use of force is unacceptable to the Soviet Union.

In addition, Moscow had raised an important point by calling for the convening of an international conference. This call is in harmony with an initiative made by President Saddam Husayn on Aug. 12 which was disregarded by the world community. This initiative should have been discussed and Iraq's demands should have been given attention by the world community. What the West and the world at large want Iraq to do and implement should be applicable also to the occupied Arab lands.

Q: We understand from this that the Soviet Union's position was effective at the summit?

A: Yes. It was and Moscow has proved its weight and that it is still a superpower.

Q: What comment do you have on President Gorbachev's statement that Washington cannot buy his country with its dollars?

A: This statement was in reply to question by a journalist. It could not have come out had the question not been asked. When King Husayn called President Bush at the start of the crisis to discuss the issue Bush said that he realises that Jordan was going through difficult economic circumstances. The King told Bush that he wanted to visit Washington not to discuss this issue but rather to study the fate of a nation and to find ways to avert an explosion and an escalation to the confrontation and war and he said that the presence of foreign troops on holy lands was unacceptable.

Q: What does the continuous military build-up in the Gulf mean now that the Helsinki summit decided to give priority to diplomacy?

A: The United States is continuing to build up its forces and I believe its allies reconsidered the situation and discovered that Iraq possesses power that would inflict heavy casualties on the Americans and the other forces assembled in Saudi Arabia. Jordan realises that the battlefield, in the event of war, would be on around the oil zone, which means a total devastation of all the oil installations in the region. Apart from Iran's oil in the Gulf there will be no oil except Iraqi oil. This means that the world will be deprived of half of the total estimated underground oil reserves. I leave it to you to imagine the future and the state of world industry and development in the world.

I would like also to point out that these were included in the calculations of the United States, which had gone to Saudi Arabia in the first place to impose its control over the oil resources. As everybody knows, in military action victory can only be counted by the achievement of objectives and not by merely counting hardware and the victims. Based on the assumption, the United States will be the loser.

Q: I can see from what has been said that there is a contradiction between the American escalation in the region and the Helsinki resolutions?

A: I must say that we should not forget the Israeli intention and we should not forget that Israel has ominous influence on U.S. policies. Israel's position vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis serves Israel's interests and not those of the United States or other countries of the world. Israel views Iraq's military power as a threat to it and strives to have the Western powers destroy this power.

Furthermore, Israel is still planning to achieve this goal and it has the power to bring about changes in other nation's stand with total disregard to the interests of the whole world. I cannot belittle the Zionist influence which could push the world towards war and I am afraid that Israel would involve the U.S. in military action.

Q: It is known that the U.S. resorted to the "Desert Shield" operation at this particular moment but the plans had been worked out by the Pentagon in the 1970s as a contingency plan directed against any Soviet attack. Why do you think Washington is using the plan in this crisis?

A: The "Desert Shield" operation was worked out by the Pentagon to defend American interests in the Gulf and this plan is not directed solely against the Soviet Union, but rather against any country in the region, particularly Iran. Washington has pursued preparations of this plan even after its detente with the Soviet Union.

Once the Gulf crisis erupted, Washington put this plan in force even before taking permission from Saudi Arabia. At the same time we had evidence that Iraq harboured no hostile intentions towards Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states and that there was no massing of Iraqi troops against Saudi Arabia.

The Iraqis had assured us that they had no intention of occupying any part of Arab land in the Gulf and they had no historic right to any place except in Kuwait but that in the event of war matters could change.

Q: What is your reply to Israel's repeated threats to Jordan as attributed to Israeli leaders on several occasions. The Israelis have said that they would storm into Jordanian territory should Iraqi troops were present on Jordanian soil?

A: Should Israel launch an aggression on Jordan all the Arab states will be bound, through the defence pact, to defend this country. If there is no Israeli intention to attack Jordan there is no need for any force to be found on Jordanian soil.

Q: What is Jordan's stand with regard to Israel's attempts to separate the Gulf crisis from the Palestine question?

A: Israel's attempts in this concern are continuing though it realises the obvious links and is trying to avoid them by all means.

The Palestine question is indeed the root cause of all the problems in the Gulf and in Lebanon. Any solution lies in the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights and the repatriation of the displaced people of Palestine. We can see that differences among Arab states stem from the Palestine question and that all Arab summits were based on this problem. Based on this concept, once the Palestine question has been resolved all the other issues can be resolved. There is also a need to link the Palestine problem with the East-West detente and the armaments industry in the world. When the military industry of the West realised that the detente and the end of the cold war would stave off wars there was need to think of ways and areas for marketing the weapons. For this purpose the military industries in the United States and Europe sought to have hotspots in the world, especially the rich areas which can buy arms.

A: What does King Husayn envisage as a soluble Arab solution to the Gulf crisis?

A: King Husayn has sought to find a solution within the Arab framework from the beginning of the crisis. King Husayn had agreed with the Egyptian president that any solution to the crisis should be within the Arab framework and that there should not be any escalation for the situation in the Gulf. He also requested President Bush to refrain from involving foreign troops. That took place on Aug. 2, but on the following day the King was surprised to see a different picture and to hear the Arab League's resolution which condemned the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait—things that were not agreed upon. The Iraqi president had laid a condition that no such resolution should be issued becuse the Arab can work out a satisfactory solution. But it was found out later that the Arab resolutions were in fact a cover for foreign resolutions. This complicated matters and put the Arab solution out of reach.

During his visit to Morocco, Yemen and Sudan, King Husayn had sought to have a common denominator for all resolutions and to work out with the heads of these countries and Arab solution that would put an end to military escalation. These countries suggested an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and Arab troops should be deployed there. This was to be followed by discussions over the problem and for linking the Gulf crisis with the Palestine question so that there can be permanent stability in this region.

Q: We understand from this that the King did not propose a certain formula to these countries?

A: The King did not propose any specific solution, but agreement was reached that no proposed solution should be submitted by any individual country until consensus has been reached so that a collective plan can be proposed.

Q: Is there a lull in Jordan's moves at present following the King's latest tour?

A: Following the King's tour, and after hearing the Iraqi views that Baghdad will not pull out its forces from Kuwait, Jordan has halted its efforts for the time being, but the King will resume contacts with other countries and heads of state to find a breakthrough in the present impasse.

But I would like to point out that Jordan's efforts had succeeded in solving two thirds of the problem after Iraq had agreed to two conditions: Setting a date for the withdrawal, and the holding of a mini-summit in Jeddah to be attended by Iraq.

Saddam Husayn told the King that he would inform him of the date of withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait following a meeting by the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) and that he will start the pullout at 7 o'clock and that he will announce the withdrawal two hours later. All concerned Arab countries agreed to this. I believe that the withdrawal was demanded by the concerned Arab countries which also undertook to replace the Iraqi troops. This means that the U.S. forces were aiming to deploy at the oil fields so that Washington can reign supreme in the coming decade as a sole superpower in the face of a united Europe by 1992 which would constitute a major world power competing with the United States. Washington realises that industrial power relies on the oil from the Gulf, which holds 65 per cent of the total world reserves and realises that whoever lays his hands on the oil of this region will be able to control the fate of Europe.

It should be noted that oil found in Kuwait and Iraq forms nearly 20 per cent of the total world reserves and the United States can by no means allow Iraq to have its way. Washington fears that by occupying Kuwait Iraq is bound to abort American plans.

Q: What is Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the continued search of vessels by American warships in the Gulf of al-Aqabah?

A: If this continues, the Jordanian government will study lodging a complaint with the United Nations Security Council to draw attention that this search is harming the Jordanian people's interests at a time when Jordan is totally committed to the council's sanctions on Iraq. Jordan has already informed all shipping lines to refrain from transporting to Jordan except those goods bound for the Kingdom, especially those imported by the Ministry of Supply and Jordanian merchants.

Jordan is adversely affected by this unjust action although this country is boycotting Iraq and the Jordanian government considers such action as harmful to the country and in violation of the Security Council resolutions.

Q: Did Palestine president Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Jordan result in a Jordanian-Palestinian initiative to solve the crisis in the Gulf?

A: During 'Arafat's visit to Jordan discussions covered the Gulf crisis but no joint initiative was discussed. But 'Arafat had brought to Jordan a number of ideas to contribute to a solution.

Q: Were these ideas part of the Palestinian initiative?

A: Yes, there were.

Q: Following the latest developments and Iraq-Iran peace, were there any official contacts between Amman and Tehran?

A: Jordan has contacted the Iranian government through its U.N. representative and these contacts will continue through Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Miniter Marwan al-Qasim at the United Nations. In fact al-Qasim planned to go to Tehran but the visit was temporarily deferred because the Jordanian government is preoccupied with the Gulf crisis. However, all these contacts aim to tackle bilateral relations.

Q: What is the Jordanian government's positions vis-a-vis the difficulties and persecutions encountered by Jordanian citizens, importers and exporters when dealing with Saudi and other Gulf authorities?

A: We will be able to solve all these problems through mutual understanding beause the Jordanian political stand stems from pan-Arab interests, and we are fully convinced that Jordan's pan-Arab stand is one that serves Arab interests and our Saudi brethren. We hope that the difference in the ways through which we are approaching things will not harm the Jordanian people, and we earnestly hope that such difference will not reflect on the people's interests because in that case things will be unjustifiably complicated.

Q: Are there any contacts with the Saudi government on this subject?

A: There are contacts through diplomatic means to prevent our Jordanian citizens from any suffering in transportation and movement. We have issued a circular to all border posts asking our officials there to give the Saudis the best treatment and not to offend any of them.

Q: What is the position of the Jordanian expatriates in both Jordan and Kuwait?

A: At present there are at least 100,000 expatriates from Kuwait. The number of students admitted to government schools until five days ago was 26,000. This means that our situation is extremely difficult. However, this position will never affect our policy, which is based on our conviction that our policy serves higher Arab interests. We advise the Jordanians remaining in Kuwait to remain where they are and to continue to perform their work there because Jordan is currently suffering from unemployment, and their return to Jordan will further aggravate the problem.

Q: Does the government have any perceptions on what to do in case other Jordanians working abroad returned home?

A: We have formed teams grouping representatives for the public and private sectors, and the Lower House of Parliament to study the unemployment problem and to look into other issues such as agriculture, rationalisation of consumption, prices and the increasing numbers of evacuees. In the absence of financial resources, it is difficult to find a way out for this problem.

Q: We have learnt that the United Nations position is positive towards Jordan's request for compensation for the harm caused to its economy as a result of observing the economic embargo on Iraq. Do you believe that the expected support will cover Jordan's needs and has any amounts been allocated in this regard?

A: The study on the economic effects of the Gulf crisis on Jordan was undertaken at the outset of the crisis. Actually the harm done to Jordan by far exceeds the figure mentioned in the study presented to the U.N. At the beginning we were ready to discuss that study scientifically and objectively with the foreign parties concerned. But after thorough examination and review we found out that it was less than the actual damage or harm. In accordance with Article 50 of the U.N. Charter, we expect the U.N. compensation to meet our actual needs. The response at the U.N. level and that of Europe was encouraging, and they considered the study very precise. But there are some countries placing obstacles in the face of such assistance in view of their political stands towards Jordan.

Q: Will the amounts expected be more than the annual aid Jordan used to get, and will be in the form of bilateral aid with individual European countries or will it be through the European Community as a group?

A: Jordan has not been promised any specific amount. The amounts expected will be coming from the EC, but so far we have not received any notification to that effect. On the other hand, the level of compensation for Jordan's loss as a result of the embargo will not reach the level of aid Jordan used to receive. It is not true that the compensation will be greater than the aid. The disruption of work in al-Aqabah has caused the loss of 12,000 jobs, and the disruption of land transport has led to bring the largest land transport fleet, including 12,000 trucks, to a complete standstill and led to depriving 150,000 citizens of their basic means of living. Our factories have been badly affected since 80 per cent of their production used to be exported to Iraq, not to mention the decline of remittances from Jordanian expatriates.

Q: Are there any alternate sources to make up for the support Jordan used to get?

A: I don't think there are any other sources.

Q: What about the delay in debt servicing? Will there be any financial complication to Jordan as a result of such default?

A: The delay in servicing Jordan's foreign debts due to the current crisis will place additional burdens on Jordan. It will come up to JD170 million in the form of foreign debt interests and JD135 million for internal debt.

Q: Given the hard economic times Jordan is currently passing through, how will the government prepare its 1991 budget?

A: Frankly speaking, the preparation of the budget is our major preoccupation. We are passing through difficult circumstances and we are looking for alternatives and ways because the task of preparing the budget and presenting it is an enormous task.

Q: How do you evaluate the relation between the government and the Lower House of Parliament during the first and the extraordinary sessions?

A: Our dealing with the House was very clear and our relation was characterised by mutual confidence. Any fair observer will notice that the government has done its best to keep its promises. However, the current crisis in the Gulf presented the government from achieving some of its objectives. The government has kept the House apprised of the developments and secret contacts. We notice that there is a consensus on the House's political line.

Q: Do you have any observations, comments on the marches organised in Jordan recently?

A: In short, I think it is time slogans and marches are translated into tangible action by directing more effort to production, provision of food, and changing the consumption patterns which we have experienced.

Q: Are you optimistic about the future?

A: Yes, I am because the recent developments have drawn our attention to the fact that what was going on was wrong. These events will leave their impact on the whole Arab World. Countries become aware that they will not be able to live isolated from the rest of the world doing what pleases them.

Hasan, UN Representative Visit Evacuee Camps

JN1809193890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan has said that the duties of His Highness Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, personal representative of the UN secretary general for humanitarian assistance related to the Gulf, has nothing to do with UN Security Council Resolution No. 666. His highness said there was no connection between the mission of His Highness Prince Aga Khan, who came to the region in response to our call, and the Security Council resolution on foodstuffs and the deprivation of Iraq's children of food.

His highness added that the current visit of the representative of the UN secretary general is to discuss the conditions of thousands of people of different nationalities, who have become captives of these difficult circumstances, stressing the need for understanding the difficult conditions of these evacuees.

He also said that the principal duty of the personal representative of the UN secretary general is to coordinate the various UN activities and to call for coordination among voluntary nongovernmental and unofficial international societies and bodies. In a statement to the press during a tour by himself and His Highness Prince Aga Khan of the al-Andalus camp today, his highness said that, as the full burden of these evacuees is borne by Jordan, there should be a coordination of international efforts by a person entrusted by the UN secretary general.

Paper Compares Nazi Defeat, U.S. Gulf Presence

JN1809114190 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Sep 90 Second Edition p 12

["Issue and Opinion" column by Salamah 'Ukur: "They Are Mere Questions"]

[Text] In his message to the Iraqi people, U.S. President George Bush said, verbatim: "There is no nation on earth more determined and adhering to its objectives than us." That is, more than the Americans.

President Bush said these words while speaking about combat and the U.S. course and conduct as regards war and peace. Likewise, he was speaking about the Americans' resolve, determination, capability, and willingness to do what they like and desire.

While using these epithets and adjectival characterizations comparing the American nation and other nations and peoples of the world, affirming the superiority of the Americans, President Bush compelled us to recall the Nazi ideology which stipulated that "the German race is above all races." Hitler, the founder of the Nazi doctrine, dwelled on the superior traits, ethics, and characteristics of the German people, which, from his viewpoint, were superior to those of other peoples.

To be fair, we should say that President Bush did not make a comparison between the blood of Americans and that of other peoples as the Nazis did.

As regards comparison, what would President Bush say about the Americans' defeat in Vietnam and Indochina? Besides, does he not fear a repeat of this defeat in the Arab region? Does he not fear an American defeat similar to the defeat inflicted on the Nazi Germans in the world war?

It remains to be said that the Iraqi leadership, which allowed its enemy Bush to address the Iraqi people to instigate them against their leadership, is great.

By God, who is the democrat in this encounter: Bush or Saddam? Who is the one who has faith in his people, in the awareness of his people, and consequently in the position of his people? These are only questions.

Bush Message Said Not To Reflect Intentions

JN1909125190 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
18 Sep 90 p 20

["Highlights" column by Dr. Fahd al-Fanik: "The Televised Message, What Does the United States Say to the Arabs?"]

[Text] U.S. President Bush accepted the offer made to him to address the Iraqi people over Iraqi television. He had requested this because the Iraqi president regularly appeared on and addressed the American people over the U.S. television. The taped message arrived in Baghdad Saturday [15 September], and Iraq was given five days to air the tape or else Washington would circulate it to the world. Baghdad did broadcast the tape Sunday [16 September] evening.

Surely a dialogue in the media is better than an exchange of missiles and chemical and concussion bombs. While dialogue addresses the mind, war will only lead to tens of thousands of U.S. coffins. War, moreover, will probably result in the destruction of some cities in more than one Middle East country, in the burning of the oilfields, and, of course, in the killing of thousands of civilian Americans and Europeans held in Iraq and Kuwait.

The dialogue, however, must be just and held on an equal footing. The Iraqi president did not address open messages to the Americans, and American television has not given him this opportunity. What was aired in the United States were interviews with the Iraqi president conducted by professional U.S. reporters who tried to embarrass the president and pose the most difficult questions.

If President Bush wanted an equal opportunity, or equal time as they say in the United States, he should have accepted the same format; namely to sit down before Arab reporters and answer their questions.

President Bush has to answer questions like:

—Why did he give himself the right to invade Panama and overthrow its government in violation of international law?

—Why has he sent his forces to the Middle East to protect a certain regime in Kuwait, while failing to send his forces to protect the South Vietnam regime when the forces of North Vietnam invaded the country, declared unification, and changed Saigon's name?

—Why is he forcefully applying Security Council Resolution 660 against the occupation of Kuwait, while not applying Security Council Resolution 242 against Israel's occupation of territories of three Arab countries in the same way?

—Why is Bush using his Armed Forces to prevent the annexation of Kuwait, while remaining silent on the annexation of Jerusalem?

—What gives America the right to use the weapon of starvation against Iraq's old men, women, and children for political purposes? Also, what is the difference between blockading and starving a people, and taking innocent people as hostages?

—Why does the U.S. president not tell his people frankly whether he accepts responsibility for the killing of thousands of civilian Americans in Iraq and Kuwait, who he terms as hostages, by the bombs of his warplanes, or at the hands of their guards in case the U.S. and Israeli bombs miss them?

Having evaded these and similar questions, the U.S. president recorded his message with many faked smiles on his face. He said:

—He is fighting Saddam Husayn and his acts, and wooing the Iraqi people.

—He is attacking the Iraqi regime, not the Arab nation.

—He cares for applying international law, not controlling oil sources.

—He represents a peace-loving state, not an imperialist looting force.

The Arab people understood Bush's true intentions as being exactly the opposite of his words and assertions. The huge demonstrations against him are the practical embodiment of the Iraqi people's response to the world's dictator.

AL RA'Y Urges U.S. Soldiers To Go Home

JN1809061590 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
15 Sep 90 pp 1, 22

[Editorial "A Message to the Captives of the Desert"]

[Text] Upon inspecting U.S. soldiers in the Gulf, General Colin Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, was showered by questions from them. Most of the questions focused on when they will be returning to their country.

The U.S. general could not specify that date. He told them that he did not know when that would be. However, the question clearly signals the prevalent uneasiness among the soldiers and the absence of a cause that provides a convincing reason for their stay.

Undoubtedly there is a segment of the U.S. citizenry that is looking for an answer to the same question. This segment is growing day by day. It comprises the families of those soldiers and other Americans who have gradually begun opening their eyes to the truth. Moreover, they have begun to realize that the clamor created by the U.S. Administration when it pushed its forces into the desert was an affected clamor, and that it was only a cover, along with its claim that Iraq is threatening its neighbors, at a time when Iraq has stated more than once that it has no ambition anywhere, that its forces are stationed in defensive positions, and that they will never initiate any attack.

Thus, it is clear that the American people, who have not forgotten the calamities that befell their sons in the Vietnam war, have begun to reconsider their calculations. This reconsideration is not confined to mothers and fathers who are worried about the fate awaiting their sons on the desert sands, but has extended to the U.S. forces in the desert, and is encapsulated in the form of a question which the U.S. soldiers addressed to their leader, and which expressed one thing—that is, their desire to go back to their country.

Had the Arabs been able to answer the question of these soldiers, they would have told them that those who brought them to the desert and threw them over the burning sands, are the same people who were in safe places at the time of the Vietnam war when they threw others into the hell of the jungles. This is not a conclusion or a claim, but is in a message addressed to President Bush by a U.S. university professor who witnessed the Vietnam war and who is now ridden with worry about the fate of his son, who was dragged, along with his soldier friends—most of whom come from poor U.S. families—to dangerous locations in the desert. This message is not a secret. It was published in newspapers and disseminated by news agencies.

We say to those soldiers: Here you are captives of the desert. You will never be a shield of the desert. It does not need you, because its shield has always been an Arab shield. You are offered as a sacrifice to redeem those politicians, who dragged you to the desert to satisfy their ambitions. They even consider drops of oil to be more valuable than your blood. They want you to function as a shield for outmoded aggressive actions.

We say to you that your return to your country is the only guarantor of your safety, so that you may live in peace similar to the peace being experienced by those who sent you to the desolate sands. You can also say this to your families, so that they can stop those who are beating the drums of war and demand that they return you to your country safe and sound.

There is not a single Arab who wants to start firing a single shot at you. But what can an Arab do if those who brought you prompt you to start shooting? Then, those among you who are destined to survive will only find tears and sorrows to cherish. We do not know how many will actually survive. As for the slave traders who drove you into the desert, they will not give a hoot, although it is certain that some of them will not be recognized in history books.

Paper Hails People, King for Conference Support

JN1809073890 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Sep 90 Second Edition p 1, 10

[Editorial: "Jordan, the Conscience of its Nation"]

[Text] On both the official and popular levels, Jordanian action continues to help the nation, defend its interests, bring closer the opportunities of peace, and remove the Gulf crisis from the impasse it has been pushed into by the U.S. Administration. The Jordanian leadership, the leadership of Husayn, continues to spare no effort to search for a glimmer of hope through the contacts with brothers and friends and many of the world countries, despite the fact that these contacts have cost Jordan a great deal of effort, suffering, and misunderstanding of its role, which has been recognized, appreciated, and evaluated by many just people of the world, their nations, and organizations.

Jordanian activity has not frozen for a single moment, at a time when many buried their heads in the sand and proceeded to calculate from a very narrow perspective the interests of the nation and what they stand to lose or gain. This Jordanian activity has begun and is determined not to extinguish the torch of peace, regardless of how dark the crisis becomes and irrespective of the war specter hovering in the region.

On the popular level, the Jordanian tongue which speaks the language of the Arabs and defends their interests and system talks abundantly about heroic Iraq's stand in confronting the tyranny of aggression and the resolutions made by the U.S. Administration in the name of the United Nations, after it tranformed the Security Council into a State Department secretariat by paying the price required, using carrot and stick policies, and arousing past and present animosities against the Arabs.

The Jordanian streets, which embraced the Arab Popular Forces Conference in an atmosphere provided by Jordanian democracy and made possible and heralded by great Husayn through which he renews Jordan's might, image, and role in its nation and with the world, today represent the conscience of the nation, reflect its emotions, and highlight the elements of confrontation, stamina, and rejection of U.S. aggression and the hegemony and exploitation it represents, in addition to interference in Arab affairs.

The Jordanian message to the Arabs and the world from the official and popular positions which merged, united, solidified, and rallied round Husayn's leadership, calls on our nation to necessarily come up with the option of an Arab solution based on Arab principles and the nation's interests, whatever this solution costs and however much the enemies of the nation attempt to ignore it. Jordan believes that this solution, coupled with the Arab will, must be achieved and used to face the aggression irrespective of the cunning of the aggressors and those allied with them or guided by their course.

Constitutional Front Leader Views Arab Split

PM1809140190 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Sep 90 p 6

[Interview with Milhim al-Tall, secretary general of the Jordanian Arab Constitutional Front Party, by Muhammad Milkawi in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [Milkawi] What is the front's position on the political activities in Jordan, which have intensified recently since the Gulf events?

[Al-Tall] Perhaps the answer to your question is what these events have revealed. Some political organizations, regrettably, are for mere slogans and use methods of sensationalism and propaganda on the pretext of defending the Iraqi leadership and regime—for which, in actual fact, they never harbored anything but hatred, since they had always attacked the Iraqi leadership and regime to the point, in some cases, of mounting resistance.

That confirms certain aspects of the political activity in Jordan, particularly at this stage. Such activity lacks seriousness and has hidden motives, exploiting the current circumstances and the absence of the rule of law to expand their circle of influence by taking over parliamentary, public, and popular establishments.

We in the "Constitutional Front" have believed from the outset in the Jordanian Constitution and the rule of law. We raised the slogan that any political activity must be patriotic and must stem from faith in the Constitution and respect for the law. These organizations, to which the government has turned a blind eye and which the government actually encouraged by allowing some of its media to polish their image, have confirmed through their practices that they are still the same as the people knew them to be in the sixties and the recent past and that they are opportunists. They are, therefore, illegitimate because of their line, which runs contrary to the Constitution, the law, and the royal directive that they should organize their affairs through the charter—the idea of which, incidentally, we opposed from the very beginning as everyone knows.

[Milkawi] It is noticeable that some Jordanian media are concentrating on giving a distorted picture of and on harming Jordan's relations with certain fraternal Arab states. Where is Jordan's national interest in all that?

[Al-Tall] Regrettably, there is some truth in what you have said. It is as if the purpose is to isolate Jordan from its brothers who never failed to do their duty toward it. I am suspicious of the people who are behind such unpatriotic attitudes. I am one of those who believe that our Jordanian people are well aware of what is happening and realize that it is not in our interest to destroy the strong ties we have built with our brothers in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, who always backed and supported us and appreciated our circumstances, and that these fraternal countries constitute an additional depth for Jordan. Our Jordanian expatriates have found them to be a second homeland which looked after and honored them—a fact we will always remember.

Because of our fraternal ties with the brothers in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, I am confident that the situation will be rectified and that fraternity safeguarded. I am certain that our brothers there are now, as in the past, too magnanimous to be influenced by these suspect voices, because they know who is behind them and they are aware of their sinister motives.

[Milkawi] The Arab world is now more divided than ever, and Jordan is in a position where it must be careful and cautious if it is to retain its traditional role as a country whose national interests and pan-Arab mission dictate that it should not slip into the unknown. How could it emerge from this crisis and what role can it play?

[Al-Tall] Jordan believes in Arab solidarity and cooperation and in solving problems through dialogue, through conferences, meetings, and initiatives. It is Jordan's duty, therefore, to manifest and cement what it believes in and to try to mend the rift and solve the problem in accordance with Arab principles and values and in accordance with the charters to which it is committed.

[Milkawi] Are you optimistic that a solution will be found to the Iraq-Kuwait problem?

[Al-Tall] Of course I am optimistic. I believe that as Arabs we can contain and solve the problem, and I hope that President Saddam Husayn will give Arab and international diplomacy a chance and back and encourage them to continue their efforts to achieve a desirable solution that would fulfill the supreme Arab interests.

[Milkawi] How do you assess the attitude of the Arab Gulf states toward the Jordanian expatriates working there?

[Al-Tall] Our Jordanian people working in Saudi Arabia and the fraternal Gulf states will continue to be looked after and accorded care and attention because they themselves do not want their relations, as Jordanians, with their brothers in the fraternal states to be harmed in any way. In fact it is their duty to do their best to enhance the ties of fraternity, amity, and respect with the dear brothers in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states.

Jordan and the Jordanians cannot possibly forget or pretend to forget Saudi Arabia's constant aid and supportive position. Our nation cannot forget the late Faysal Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, who was the victim of his insistence on praying in al-Aqsa mosque after the liberation of Palestine and the defeat of its enemies.

I believe that these are matters of principle to our brothers and to our people, who uphold the values and principles and who are famous for their credibility in dealing with others, especially neighboring brothers.

I hope nobody will pay any attention to the tendentious rumors and read between the lines to discern the true intentions. An advocate of division could only be a hireling, destructive in his pursuit of his objective, a liar and a hypocrite.

[Milkawi] We have not heard the front's views on the Gulf crisis and developments. Could we talk about that, particularly as it is the topic of the hour in all circles?

[Al-Tall] The front's capabilities are modest. It is not one of "those" organizations. But despite its limited resources, the front has issued two statements on Gulf events since the occupation of Kuwait. Some of the media have unfortunately ignored them or given them no prominence. They highlighted and are highlighting statements issued by other organizations and parties, giving them much space and attention because these organizations have a free hand in the country via their massive resources. The sources of finance, encouragement, and instruction to these organizations are well known.

In the statements we have issued, we focused on our consistent stance based on our principles and convictions, which boil down to the fact that we do not accept interference by any Arab country in the affairs of any other Arab country, let alone anything more than interference, namely occupation. We believe in commitment to the Arab League Charter and the Joint Defense Pact, although we believe that the principles of the charter should be reexamined to make the Arabs stronger and more impregnable and to give them greater solidarity and unity.

We also believe in international legitimacy, the UN Charter principles, and the legitimacy of human rights. Proceeding from all that and because of Jordan's special position, we reject anything that runs contrary to that. We believe that the Arab unionists should learn from the failures of past, hastily elaborated unity plans, lest the day come when the Arabs renounce these pan-Arab aspirations because of a wrong approach or because of neglect of the ways of struggling for them and reliance on hasty and illegitimate methods.

We therefore believe that the solution to the Iraq-Kuwait dispute should be an Arab solution to a dispute between brothers and within the framework of Arab fraternity and higher interests, away from armed force and military power.

However, in view of what has already happened and of the presence of such massive concentrations of foreign troops on our Arab territory, our first duty must be to work tirelessly for a way out of this situation by urging Arab solidarity as a way of containing and cooling the crisis to paving the way to victory against the great plot being hatched against our nation. That would give our nation more solidarity and military power.

There must be insistence on the Arab nature of the problem and its solution with due consideration for the interests of the entire nation and its future, dignity, and progress, firmly drawing away from the dangers which could destroy its strength and the seeds of its unity and sound foundations for a bright future.

King Departs for Morocco Gulf Consultations

JN1909120590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn left for Rabat at noon today on a visit to Morocco, where he will hold talks with His Majesty King Hassan II and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid on the Gulf crisis developments and on finding an Arab formula to resolve it and avert its dangers.

He was seen off at the airport by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, and His Royal Highness Faysal Ibn-Husayn. Among those who also saw him off were the prime minister, the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, his highness the chief chamberlain, the ministers, the chief of the royal household, the chief of staff, and the director of public security.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan took the constitutional oath in the presence of his majesty the king and the members of the cabinet as regent during the king's absence from the homeland.

The king was accompanied by Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; the political adviser to the king; and the deputy prime minister and foreign miniuster.

The Moroccan ambassador to Jordan left on the same plane.

King Receives Moroccan Envoy, Letter on Gulf

JN1809130390 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn this afternoon received at the Royal Hashemite Court Mr Ahmed Bensouda, political adviser to His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco. During the audience, His Majesty King Husayn received a letter from his brother the Moroccan monarch dealing with the Gulf crisis and efforts to work out an Arab-based solution.

The letter is a followup to talks his majesty held with the Moroccan monarch when he visited Rabat in late August. The meeting was attended by his excellency the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court and his majesty's political adviser, as well as the Moroccan ambassador in Amman.

Algerian Former President Ben Bella Departs

JN1809203990 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn saw off former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella as he left Amman this morning after a two- day visit to Jordan. During the visit, Ben Bella and His Majesty King Husayn reviewed developments in the Gulf crisis and Jordan's efforts to reach a political settlement within the Arab fold.

His Majesty King Husayn awarded the Algerian leader Ben Bella the Husayn Bin-'Ali medal and sash, which is the most prestigious Jordanian medal. Ben Bella was also seen off at the airport by al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court.

Ba'th Party Elects Regional Command

JN1809084190 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Sep 90 p 16

[Text] Amman, AL-RA'Y—A regional command for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party (The Unified Organization) in Jordan has been elected. The command comprises: Muhammad al-Zu'bi, 'Abdallah Mayyas, Muhammad Abu-Zanimah, Fawwaz al-Sukkar, Majid Mahafizah, Dr. Mahmud al-Najdawi, Qusayy al-Khushman, Dr. Ghazi 'Ubaydat, Jamal Suwaydan, Muhammad Jamil al-Khataybah, and Muhammad Qutayshat.

The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party spokesman has stated that the abovementioned regional command was elected recently by the party's constituent committee. He also said the regional command has been charged with preparing for the next regional conference.

The command has elected Muhammad al-Zu'bi as the party's regional secretary general, and Dr. Ghazi 'Ubaydat as the assistant regional secretary general.

Junblatt Views Settlement Prospects, Al-Ta'if

NC1809102890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, has given his views on a prospective settlement, the al-Ta'if agreement, the army, the repatriation of displaced citizens to the mountain, ways of putting an end to the deteriorating situation, and some people's ignorance and their inability to grasp developments.

In an interview published today in the newspaper AL-NAHAR, Junblatt said some people within the government and the Chamber of Deputies, and some politicians both within and outside the regime, do not grasp the existing political facts or understand democratic truths.

He announced: I believe some people are not conscious of and do not realize what is happening in the Arab world as a whole, or know anything about international developments. We are still running things in a traditional way, as if legitimacy can be established merely with words. This is not true. If the legitimate government is established in B'abda tomorrow, will the South and Beirut Port return? Will Samir Ja'ja' depart from al-Karantinah? Will Walid Junblatt hand over his weapons? Will a trustworthy army be built? Will the door be closed to the smuggling of hashish and heroin which is the major source of income for some people in Lebanon? The question remains: Who do you address? With respect and love to everyone—I do not want to attack anyone—who do you address in Lebanon and also abroad?

Told that he is one of those who say that General 'Awn is the basic obstacle to the restoration of the state, Junblatt said: I have not said anything about Gen. 'Awn. Our experience with him during the so-called war of liberation was a bitter one. We were among the first who objected to his appointment as army commander. Nevertheless, he assumed the position. We wish to remind everyone of something which we also raised with the delegation of the new Lebanese Front. We told them that the so-called al-Ta'if agreement is an interim settlement to which we have many objections. However, it is the only existing settlement. It is not a charter but a settlement. Let us try to accept this settlement and develop it. So far, Gen. 'Awn rejects it. Is this agreement the solution? I do not believe so. Let us accept it and wait and see what it will produce. Let us all participate in this settlement—we, Gen. 'Awn, and Samir Ja'ja'. Perhaps we will be able to develop it later.

Junblatt emphasized that the Lebanon of the 1950's and 1960's is finished. He said: We belong to the fourth, fifth, or rather sixth world. Bangladesh might be in a better position.

Responding to a question about the repatriation of Christians to the mountain area, he said this issue was obstructed and halted because it is both a political and economic issue. He explained that whenever the return of displaced Christians was discussed some people thought that a Druze-Christian was being struck and Lebanese and regional objections were raised. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Meets Army Commander, Officers

NC1809191790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Defense Minister Dr. Albert Mansur held a series of military meetings today. He began by meeting with Army Commander General Emil Lahhud and discussed the situation of the military establishment. Minister Mansur then received a delegation of senior army officers. During these meetings, he gave the necessary instructions in light of the cabinet's decisions.

Bomb Explodes Near University Official's Office

NC1809202290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1915 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] An explosive charge went off this afternoon near the office of the American University of Beirut [AUB] deputy president without causing any casualties. Security organs earlier discovered an explosive device in a packet of cigarettes in the AUB president's office.

One Killed in Iqlim Al-Tuffah Clashes 18 Sep

NC1809115590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] According to REUTER, one person was killed and three others were injured in clashes between Amal and Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah today.

'Intermittent' Clashes 19 Sep

NC1909052490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] A guarded calm prevails in Iqlim al-Tuffah today amid intermittent clashes involving rockets and machine guns. International Red Cross and Lebanese Red Cross teams managed to enter a number of villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah yesterday to remove nine wounded people.

President al-Asad To Visit Iran 'Next Week'

JN1809113590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] In response to an invitation by Hojjat Ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, President Hafiz al-Asad will travel to Iran next week on an official and cordial visit.

Reported Khaddam Visit to Tehran

JN1809112990 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Informed diplomatic sources in Beirut have said that Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam paid a quick, unannounced visit to Tehran during the past two days, and that this visit took place following the end of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Damascus last Friday.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD quoted these sources as saying that Khaddam held intensified talks with the Iranian leaders on developments of the situation in the Gulf, the results of the Syrian-U.S. talks, and the Iraqi attempts to break the international blockade imposed against Iraq as a result of its occupation of the State of Kuwait. The sources stressed that intensified contacts between Damascus and Tehran will continue during the coming period. These sources also referred to the visit Syrian President Hafiz al- Asad will pay to Tehran within the next few days.

AL-BA'TH on Meaning of Visit

JN1909092490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Sep 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Importance of the Meeting Between Damascus and Tehran," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Leader al-Asad's expected visit to Iran is of special importance because, on one hand, it comes under delicate circumstances and amid an explosive atmosphere in the region as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and its serious consequences on the regional and international situations, and on the other hand because of the Arab-Zionist conflict.

AL-BA'TH adds: Meetings between Damascus and Tehran since the eruption of the Iranian Islamic revolution, which stood firmly against the Zionist entity and its ambitions, cannot be but basically in the interest of Palestine and the strategy of confronting the enemies of the Arab and Islamic nations. This is because the Iranian revolution's principled stands toward the Palestine question are worthy of appreciation, since these stands are in agreement with those of Syria and all strugglers against Zionism, its ambitions, and expansionist dreams.

AL-BA'TH adds: Syria, which has from the very beginning stood against the Iraq-Iran war which was unjustly waged by the Iraqi regime, has never been biased toward one side against the other, but supported right strongly and sincerely, and faithfully sought to stop the Arab and Islamic bloodshed and to prevent the destruction of the potential and resources of Iraq and Iran.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Leader al-Asad's visit to Tehran is within the framework of an agreement between the two friendly countries to continue consultations to serve the strategy of the fateful battle against the Zionist enemy, especially since the catastrophe resulting from the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait has caused our struggle against Zionism to retreat several steps. In light of this, the catastrophic crisis should be given priority during the Syrian-Iranian talks within an overall view of all the threats posed to the Arab and Islamic nations.

Omani Interior Minister, Delegation Arrive

JN1809183690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Omani Interior Minister Badr Bin-Sa'ud Bin-Harib and his delegation arrived in Damascus at noon today on a three-day visit to Syria. He was received at Damascus international airport by Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah, senior officials at the Interior Ministry, the Syrian ambassador in Muscat, and the Omani ambassador in Damascus.

Delegations Begin Talks

JN1809184590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Damascus—Talks between the Syrian Interior Ministry delegation headed by Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah and the Omani Interior Ministry delegation headed by Interior Minister Badr Bin-Sa'ud Bin-Harib began here this morning. The talks were attended by the Syrian Ambassador to Oman and the Omani Ambassador in Damascus.

Dr. Harbah referred to the good brotherly relations between the two countries in various areas, stressing that Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad is working to promote joint Arab action to serve pan-Arab interests in all fields.

For his part, the Omani interior minister expressed appreciation for the hospitality accorded to him and his delegation during their visit to Syria, which is respected and appreciated by the Omani people. He also praised the brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries within the framework of the joint Arab action. The two sides then discussed a number of issues pertaining to the work of the two interior ministries as well as issues of common interest in Syria and Oman.

Prime Minister in Talks

JN1809184290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Omani Interior Minister Badr Bin-Sa'ud Bin-Harib, accompanied by Colonel 'Abdallah Bin-'Ali al-Hammadi, commander of Dhofar unit in the Sultanate, at 1000 today. The meeting was attended by Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah, Omani Ambassador to Damascus 'Abdallah al-Khurusi, and Syrian Ambassador to Oman 'Abd-al-Karim al-Sabbagh.

During the meeting, they discussed the brotherly relations between Syria and the Sultanate of Oman and means to develop and expand cooperation.

The prime minster reviewed the visiting minister's talks in Damascus and stressed their importance. During this meeting, the talks also dealt with several issues of mutual interest.

Foreign Minister Meets Omani

JN1809184090 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in English 1800 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] The Foreign Minister Mr. Faruq al-Shar' received this evening the Interior Minister of Oman Mr. Badr Bin-Sa'ud Bin-Harib. Present at the meeting were the Syrian Ambassador to Oman 'Abd al-Karim al-Sabbagh, Colonel 'Abdallah Bin-'Ali al-Hammadi, commander of the Dhofar security unit, and the Omani ambassador in Damascus.

The discussions dealt with the developments in the Gulf following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, besides ways of strengthening bilateral relations.

The minister of the interior received at his office this evening Mr. Bin-Harib and his accompanying delegation. The discussions during the meeting revolved around ways of enhancing the brotherly relations between the two countries.

The Minister of the Interior of the Sultanate of Oman Mr. Badr Bin-Sa'ud Bin-Harib arrived in Damascus today at the head of a delegation for a three-day visit at the invitation of the Minister of the Interior Dr. Muhammad Harbah. Mr. Bin-Harib said he was carrying greetings from Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and the Omani people to President Hafiz al-Asad and the brotherly people of Syria.

Mr. Bin-Harib described Syrian-Omani relations as very good and praised the solidarity between the two countries which had been bolstered upon the directives of President Hafiz al-Asad and Sultan Qabus.

Daily Denies 'Position of Enmity' Toward Iraq

JN1909084990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Sep 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "What Interest of the Nation?," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Past events and days proved the soundness of the Syrian stand and view calling for the need to stop this [Iraq-Iran] war and the bloodshed, and which called on Iraq and Iran to end war at that point of losses. Here we are again, eight years after the war. Here are our brothers in Iraq going back to what we said years ago. And now we want what is taking place to stop. What we are saying is coming from the depth of our pan-Arab conscience. One must not at all think that we in Syria proceed from a position of enmity toward Iraq, but from our concern about the nation, including all its countries, and from the Iraqi people's interests before any other country's interests.

Kuwaiti Group Urges Confronting Iraqi 'Conspiracy'

JN1709180690 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Damascus, 17 Sep (SANA)—The National Kuwaiti Grouping [al-Tajammu' al-Kuwayti al-Watani] today issued a statement in which it said that the Iraqi regime's evacuation of thousands of Kuwaitis from Kuwait after seizing their official documents is a serious indication of the occupier's suspect intentions to empty the country of its citizens.

The statement added that this conspiracy coincides with the growing popular rejection of the invasion and the escalating resistance operations against the occupation forces.

The statement said that the National Kuwaiti Grouping calls on Kuwaitis to confront this conspiracy, expose this criminal plan, and preserve the soil of the dear homeland.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Meets Armed Forces Party Officials

LD1909082190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0531 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Kabul, Sep. 18, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] and chairman of the Homeland Party and high commander of the RA's Armed Forces, today had a meeting with the activists and members of the Homeland Party in the ranks of the Armed Forces of the country.

In this meeting, while Farid Ahmad Mazdak deputy chairman of the Homeland Party and the ministers of the Armed Forces ministries were also present, President Najibullah talked in brief on the process of the renewation of the Homeland Party, (?and) prospects and position in the new political system of the country as well as the measurements and fulfillments made since the convocation of the general assembly of the party, and made outstanding the future tasks of the personnel of the Armed Forces and that of the Homeland Party's members towards the realisation of the resolutions of the general assembly of the Homeland Party and the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation, as well.

President Najibullah, while explaining the achievements of the policy of national reconciliation for cessation of war in the country, and political settlements of the issue of Afghanistan, informed the participants of the meeting of the results and gains of the visits of the high ranking delegation of Afghanistan to the Soviet Union, Indian, and Paris for participating in the second UN conference for Least Developed Countries concluded recently.

Likewise, President Najibullah in his speech extolled very highly the militancy and devotions of the personnel of the Armed Forces of the country for safeguarding the country, ensurance of peace and implementation of the policy of national reconciliation, and made outstanding their future tasks for defending the independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the country.

At the end, Army General Muhammad Aslam Watanjan, minister of defence, Army General Huhammad Nabi 'Azimi, first deputy defence minister, and Col. Gen. Manoki Mangal, head of the political department of the Armed Forces of the country, while representing others, assured President Najibullah of not sparing any efforts towards the fulfilment of their assigned tasks.

200 Rebels Join National Reconciliation in Balkh

LD1909090390 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0450 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Kabul, Sep 18, Bakhtar—An armed opposition group consisting of 200 persons gave up war and joined the policy of national reconciliation in Balkh Province, reported a BAKHTAR correspondent.

The group headed by Jora Malim, was warmly welcomed by the state encharges [as received] and a large number of inhabitants of the province. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh

Dhaka on Exit Permit Refusals for Embassy Staff

BK1809162290 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] The Soviet airliner is to lift stranded Bangladeshi nationals to Dhaka from Jordan and Turkey by 50 flights. The Soviet airliner has already five flights bringing about 2,500 Bangladeshis to Dhaka from Amman. On its return journey, the airliner carried nearly 100 tons of rice for the residents of camps in Jordan.

The number of Bangladeshi nationals being repatriated from the Middle East will reach 50,000 by the end of this month. Briefing newsmen in Dhaka this afternoon, a Foreign Office spokesman said repatriation of all Bangladeshis from Kuwait and Iraq is expected to be completed by the middle of the next month. The second group of 113 Bangladesh Air Force personnel from Kuwait are now on their way back home. Earlier, 90 Air Force personnel returned home along with the Bangladeshi Embassy staff from Kuwait.

The spokesman said Ambassador K.M. Shihabuddin and other diplomats and non-diplomatic staff of Bangladesh Embassy in Kuwait, now in Baghdad, have not been given exit permit by Iraqi authorities. Bangladesh considers it a serious violation of the Geneva Convention under which every signatory of the convention is obliged to give total freedom of passage and movement to foreign diplomats. An official of the Iraqi Embassy in Dhaka called on the Foreign Office to inform that they are in contact with the government in Baghdad about the issue of exit permits for the Bangladesh diplomats.

India

Iraq Allows Air Force Planes To Return Citizens

BK1809132590 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] The Indian Embassy in Baghdad is now ready with a plan to evacuate stranded Indian nationals from Kuwait and Iraq in Air Force planes from Thursday onward on a regular basis. The Government of Iraq has given permission to operate the Air Force planes from Basra to New Delhi. Our Gulf correspondent Avinash Goel reports that the second phase of evacuation of Indian nationals from Kuwait by bus has already begun. Indian Embassy sources in Baghdad said 50 buses will ply between Kuwait and Iraqi border every day. The Indian nationals in Kuwait have been advised not to go to Baghdad but to board the buses in Kuwait.

Two Indian passenger ships, Akbar and Tipu Sultan, are now sailing to the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr to evacuate the stranded Indian nationals from Kuwait and Iraq. The ships left the Bombay Port last night after obtaining all the necessary clearances. They will shuttle between Umm Qasr and Dubayy and from there the stranded Indians will be flown back home. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that the ships are carrying two doctors and emergency supplies for the passengers. Tipu Sultan can carry about 600 passengers and Akbar about 1,600 to 1,800 passengers.

Gujral Returns After Talks in Europe on Gulf

BK1509085690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] The foreign ministers of India, Yugoslavia and Algeria and European troika of Italy, Ireland, and Luxembourg, will meet in New York on the 27th of this month to discuss ways in defusing the Gulf crisis. This was stated by the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, in New Delhi today on his arrival from a visit to Yugoslavia, Italy, and the Netherlands. Talking to newsmen at the airport, Mr. Gujral said that the outcome of the discussions will be put forward at the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] foreign ministers conference on the fourth of next month. Mr. Gujral disclosed that a new international fund is being created to help the countries seriously affected by the Gulf crisis. He pointed out that the present two billion dollar fund is inadequate.

During his talks with the chairman of the European Community in Rome, Mr. Gujral opposed the move for selective distribution of aid and wanted that all the affected countries should be compensated proportionally.

Minister Warns Fiji Against Practising Racism

BK1509132490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] India has warned the Fiji regime against attempts to give constitutional sanctions to racism. New Delhi has also urged the international community to check the new forms of racism being imposed in Fiji through a controversial constitution which has jeopardized the majority ethnic Indians. The call was made by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Harikishore Singh, in New Delhi today.

Ruling Party Discusses Punjab Elections Issue

BK1809161690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] The executive committee of the National Front parliamentary party has asked the government to take measures to remove the grievances of the Sikhs and restore confidence of Hindus in Punjab before holding elections in the state. The committee expressed its view at its first meeting in New Delhi yesterday. As already reported, the meeting unanimously authorized the prime minister to take a final decision on holding assembly elections after consulting all concerned.

Briefing reporters, the party's general secretary, Mr. Harmohan Dhavan, said though divergent views were expressed, members generally favored elections and restoring the democratic rights to the people of Punjab. The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, apprised the members of the discussion he had with leaders of different political parties. He said that a further dialogue will be held with the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], left parties, Congress-I, and others concerned before taking a final decision. He complimented the people of Punjab for maintaining communal harmony despite grave provocations from with and outside the country.

Meanwhile, Mr. S.R. Bommai, is having talks with the leaders of the BJP and the left parties to apprise them of the discussions among the senior Janata Dal leaders on Punjab assembly poll. This was stated by the party spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, while briefing newsmen about the meeting in New Delhi. He said the Janata Dal will finalize its stand on Punjab elections in a couple of days. Replying to a question, Mr. Reddy said that the Congress-I will be contacted after the Janata Dal formulates its views. He expressed the hope that the Congress-I will adopt a constructive approach to the issue.

Four 'Terrorists' Among 12 Killed in Punjab

BK1809145690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] In Punjab, 12 persons, including four terrorists, have been killed in separate incidents since last night. According to an official spokesman, three terrorists were killed in two separate encounters in Gurdaspur District.

10 Percent Cut in Government Expenditure Ordered

BK1509090090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] The center has decided to impose a cut of 10 percent on the balance of expenditure to be incurred during the remaining seven months of the current financial year by various ministries and departments. The order will come into force with immediate effect. The secretaries and financial advisers to the ministries and departments have been asked to work out reduced provisions and communicate the same to the budget division of the Union Finance Ministry by the end of this month. The cut will, however, not apply to pension payments, including defense pensions, loans and grants to states for their planned schemes, interest subsidies, interest payments, including interest on compulsory deposits, and the repayment of loans.

Police Seize Narcotics in Rajasthan 15 Sep

BK1609091590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] In Rajasthan, 10 kg of brown sugar [opiate] was seized by the police in Chitorgarh District yesterday. Four persons have been taken into custody in this connection.

Iran

Further on Visit of USSR Minister Belonogov

Remarks on Gas Exports

LD1809193290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] The Soviet deputy foreign minister [Belonogov], who is in Tehran at the head of a political delegation, meeting with Mr. Nurbakhsh, minister of economic affairs and finance this afternoon. He referred to the historical visit to Moscow by our country's president, which opened a new chapter in the relations between the two countries. He described the export of gas to the Soviet Union as one of the important results of that visit and added: The Islamic Republic of Iran is in a position to study and to discuss the export of more gas to the Soviet Union and its transit through the Soviet Union to Europe. Stressing the importance of agreements reached during Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to the Soviet Union, he said: At the moment, the Soviet Union is facing extensive economic changes and it is the definite decision of Soviet officials to move toward an open economy.

Mr. Nurbakhsh also expressed his hope that during his forthcoming visit to the Soviet Union a new chapter will open in the bilateral relations.

Discusses Crisis With Velayati

LD1809220190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] In his second round of talks with Foreign Minister Velayati on Tuesday night, the Soviet deputy foreign minister, [Belonogov], advised him of the message of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and stressed the need for increased bilateral talks.

Stating the interest of the USSR authorities in having talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran authorities on the current Persian Gulf crisis, he said: Under existing conditions the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be of immense importance. We are not happy with the line-up of military forces in the Persian Gulf. We will make efforts to prevent the grave consequences of that crisis.

Referring to the Afghanistan problems he said: We are aware of the possibilities which the Islamic Republic of Iran is capable of employing settle the problem of Afghanistan and on that score we would like the bilateral talks to continue.

Mr. Velayati thanked the USSR foreign minister for his message, and explained our country's views about international and regional problems, saying: The attack against Kuwait and the presence of foreign ships in the Persian Gulf has created a dangerous and disturbing situation.

It is not acceptable to the Islamic Republic of Iran that foreign forces may come to the Persian Gulf to draw up security projects for that region. We have stood against any project which may endanger the security of our nation.

On the Afghan issue, our country's foreign minister said: We want a tranquil and moderate situation to prevail and for that country to move onto the path of progress and construction. The solution to the Afghanistan problem appears practically impossible without strong regional cooperation and without heeding the wants of the Afghan nation.

Omani Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks 18 Sep

LD1809104190 Tehran IRNA in English 1014 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 18, IRNA—Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin al-Alawi Bin 'Abdallah heading a top-ranking political delegation arrived here Tuesday morning. The Omani minister was greeted at the Tehran International Mehrabad Airport by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. During his two-day visit, al-Alawi will submit a message from Oman's Sultan Qabus to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and discuss the current Persian Gulf crisis with Velayati.

Speaking to IRNA upon arrival, the Omani state minister said that his visit to Terhan was aimed at proceeding Tehran-Muscat efforts to establish peace in the Persian Gulf region and also exchange views with Iranian authorities on the regional crisis. He also underlined that both Iran and Oman have key roles in the stability of the region.

On his country's solution for the Persian Gulf crisis, al-Alawi said, "I cannot predict the future situation but any solution must be based on the United Nations resolutions (adopted in this regard.)"

President Receives Sultan Message

LD1809165990 Tehran IRNA in English 1607 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 18, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani received a message from Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman today. The message was submitted by Omani minister of state for foreign affairs Yusuf Bin-al-Alawai Bin-'Abdallah who arrived in Iran today morning.

Al-Alawai also reported to Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani on the latest developments in the Persian Gulf region.

Envoy Meets With Velayati

NC1909084890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati and Mr. Yusuf Bin al-Alawai, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, held a second round of talks yesterday afternoon. During this round of talks, recent developments, the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf, the need for Iraq's full withdrawal from Kuwait, as well as cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Persian Gulf littoral states in view of the Islamic Republic's outstanding and strong role were discussed.

At the meeting Mr. Velayati described the increase in the presence of foreign forces as a serious threat against the security and independence of regional countries.

Syrian Delegation Arrives for Talks 18 Sep

LD1809194190 Tehran IRNA in English 1818 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 18, IRNA—Syrian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Muhammad al-'Imadi arrived here Monday heading a high ranking delegation and was greeted at the airport by Vice President for Executive Affairs Hamid Mirzadeh. Later, 'Imadi and Mirzadeh held their first round of talks as part of preparations for the visit of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad who is expected in Tehran Saturday.

They also discussed travel facilities for their respective nationals to centres of pilgrimage in Iran and Syria, and studied mutual cooperation in economic, commercial and banking fields. 'Imadi called for an increase in the volume of trade exchanges between the two countries and for further exchange of pilgrims.

Mirzadeh reiterated the Islamic Republic's policy of expanding ties with all Islamic states, and hoped that relations with Syria will further expand in the future. Iran's non-oil exports to Syria and the import of cement from that country were other topics discussed by 'Imadi and Mirzadeh.

RESALAT Reports on 21 Aug Majles Session

PM1809130690 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 22 Aug 90 p 5

[Report from RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent]

[Text] Report from yesterday's open session of the Majles:

Following a one month summer vacation, the Majles held a session yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, during this session, following the pre-agenda speeches by deputies from Tehran, Babolsar, Qom and Sarband-e Arak, Mr. Karrubi made some comments which were printed yesterday. Then the deputies' notices to the executive officials of the country were read out, after which the Majles went into session.

Below are the texts of the deputies' pre-agenda speeches as well as the text of the Majles session.

Mohammad Ebrahim Asqar-zadeh, deputy from Tehran: The movement that the United States has undertaken in the region is just as aggressive as that of Iraq.

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mohammad Ebrahim Asqar-zadeh representing Tehran constituency. At first he conveyed his greetings to the great people of Iran on the occasion of the release and heroic homecoming of the POW's.

He then commented on the U.S. military presence and the Persian Gulf crisis and said: The United States is a superpower who is the winner at the end of the Cold War. It is trying to move its crisis points from the West to other areas and the Third World. The existing situation in the world and the West dictates that the United States use all conditions and changes in the world to bring under its control the globe's strategic areas. Therefore the United States, with or without Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, is trying to play a role in the Persian Gulf—an American role, not within the jurisdiction of the United Nations or other internationl organizations.

The speaker regarded the presence of the U.S. fleet as equal to that of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and added: The presence of American forces in the region, the U.S. troop movements in the Persian Gulf, is no different than what Iraq has done. What the United States has done here, or Israel has done in Lebanon or in the occupied territories, is exactly the same thing that Saddam has done. Saddam is the representative of a military machine in Iraq which during the past seven or eight years has become a very sophisticated system and has increased its military power three times over. This military machine cannot be stopped. Its resources cannot be used in this economic field, so due to the militaristic perspective that dominates it, it constantly thinks of military solutions to its problems. It thinks and expands in a militaristic way, exactly the same way that the United States and Israel do.

The movement that the United States has undertaken in this region is just as aggressive as the one undertaken by Iraq, even more so. This is because it is following long-term and pre-planned objectives, which Iraq may not be doing to that extent.

He commented on U.S. reluctance to directly engage Iraq and said: The presence of the United States in the Persian Gulf countries guarantees a clash with Iraq is highly likely. An American clash with Iraq will not be quick. The United States is reluctant to engage in hostilities with Iraq and suffer blows. So, it is trying to bring in Islamic forces and troops from Arab nations as ground forces. The Americans soldiers want to fight a war in luxury, with modern and sophisticated technology. They will be reluctant to take fire into their hands and to clash with Iraq. They will wait until such time that the internal situation in Iraq brings pressure on Saddam.

It will wait until this boycott and the economic pressures create changes in Baghdad. Quite the contrary, Iraq does not have to wait two months, as its internal problems increase, to fight with the United States. Iraq, in order to fight the United States and solve its problems, has no choice but to continue the policy it has been following so far, which is military expansionism. It will look for excuses to be able to reach its goals.

The people's deputy from Tehran commented on future changes in the region and said: The United States should be able to remove Saddam, which is very likely a 100 percent prospect; this is everyone's view. If it manages to remove Saddam but not defeat the Iraqi military machine, Iraq will remain a major military power in the region. The Persian Gulf nations and the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council]—whose security and political makeup is completely twisted and torn—will not be able to keep the peace in the region, despite all the propaganda and the sophisticated weaponry received from the West. Therefore, if the Iraqi military machine, the Ba'th party and the Iraqi military structure stay and if they are not damaged, they will cause problems. What the Americans will try to do is stop the Iraqi war machine, which is like what was said about Stalin in Russia and Hitler in Germany. This means that until such time that this war machine is halted, it will move itself and it will create a Saddam for itself.

The speaker talked about the views of Iran and the West and about one another if the Iraqi military machine is removed. He said: The Americans should hand the power to Iran once the Iraqi war machine is removed. Like before, Iran should be the only power in the region. In that case the United States and the West expect us to be their friend and their supporter, and for Iran to become the policeman of the region. This is something that neither our officials, nor our society nor our revolution accept—for us to become the guardians of the West's interests. Even the Americans and the Westerners do not accept this.

Finally, the United States will not accept Iran as the guardian of its interests in the region.

He then talked about the possibility of a permanent military base in the Persian Gulf countries by the United States, as a balance of power against Iran and added: The other solution is that, with the removal of the Iraqi war machine, in order to create a balance with Iran, in order to control Iran so that it would not be a secure power in the area, it would create a new political order with the participation of all Persian Gulf countries. The nerve center would be in its own hands. It would create a permanent military base with defensive strategic, ultramodern technology in the Persian Gulf islands. This would in effect mean that it would take into its hands the military command of these nerve centers in the Persian Gulf, as well as the new regime in Iraq and Kuwait. It would then permanently guarantee Iraq's interests in the region. This is why I am also worried about changes in Pakistan as well. The fact is that every time something happens in this area, immediately afterwards, the military becomes powerful in Pakistan, and Turkey enters the scene. This is because it needs to bring a part of NATO into the picture as well to say that it is needed and that it must keep its military structure in the face of changes in the Soviet Union.

The United States is looking for an American solution in the region which will, without a doubt, clash with our national interests.

The speaker thanked the officials for their statements and said: Of course I would like to thank the officials, those who have made decisions, those who have announced policies, the policies made by the Presidential National Security Council and the rest which were announced concerning oil. I believe that they were all wise. But there is one issue and that is the fact that a golden opportunity has now been created for Iran, which has shown that Iran can have an independent, active policy without accepting a role on behalf of the other nations in the region.

He commented on the actions of the Security Council and said: The important issue that exists is that we accept the UN Security Council resolution against Iraq like all other countries. But we must accept the fact that this is the same Security Council which has had no affect at all with regard to Israel, U.S. aggression in various parts of the world and the Iraqi war. We accept the sanctions. But there is no need for Iraqi women and children to come under pressure like Iraqi soldiers or for famine and hunger and the lack of powdered milk to cause their people to accept such a disaster. We can think seriously in this regard in an independent manner.

The people's deputy from Tehran considered mutual agreement as the main issue when it came to the exchange of POW's and said: There is another issue when it comes to the POW's and that is that I believe the International Red Cross, because of its American policies, will cause problems in the coming days. It is not allowing more than 1,000 POW's to be exchanged each day. There is no reason why we should agree with the International Red Cross in this regard. We need to have our prisoners freed at the earliest possible time. We can reach an agreement in general that if the Red Cross does not coordinate itself with us, we would put our plan into action.

At the end he talked about coordination between the Majles with the National Security Council and added: I would like to ask the respected deputies that due to the sensitivity of the events that are occuring these days and the role of the National Security Council, keeping in mind the changes in the Constitution that has allowed the creation of such a Council, they should think of ways the Majles can coordinate with this Council. While one must help, the solutions that are worked out must be brought about with strength, unity and steadfastness. The basic methods have to be preserved so that the laws are observed.

The second pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Mohammad Mojed Ara' from the constituency of Babolsar and Band-pey. He conveyed his greetings on the occasion of the release of the POW's and said: We thank God that he graced our nation in front of the amazed eyes of the world with a piece of his love to bring about the prediction of our great imam who continued to say that we are without a doubt victorious.

The speaker thanked the efforts of the officials and said:

I think it necessary, alongside the dear people of Iran, in this holy place, to thank with the deepest gratitude the nonstop and dedicated efforts and the effective initiatives shown by the great leader of the ummah, the president, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the members of the Supreme Security Council who brought the taste of sweet victory to our people, following the acceptance of the resolution, with strong diplomacy, relying on the power of God in a worthy manner. They were able to realize our just demands which were announced time and time again during the war, without giving the least bonus point and without relinquishing the principles and pure Islamic values, with their steadfast policies and planning.

Concerning the admission from the rest of the world with regard to Iraq being the aggressor in the war against Iran, the speaker added: Now everyone admits to Iraqi aggression, Bush, Russia's PRAVDA, DER SPIEGEL magazine, even King Fahd and the amir of Kuwait. How well our wise Imam put it at the time of accepting the resolution when he addressed the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait: "You are all partners in crime in U.S. adventures. The crazy actions of then President Reagan will no doubt bring about dangerous and unexpected situations for all of us. Be sure that in this equation, you are the losers. Do not weaken and make yourselves and your Islamic peoples and countries feeble in front of the United States. Even if you do not have religion, at least be free." Now we see how the Americans and the soldiers of corruption have taken the holy territories under their boots. As the great leader of the revolution said, there is no doubt that any aggression in the area as well as the presence of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia will benefit Zionism and aggression, against the interests of Islam, Muslims and the Islamic revolution.

He then commented on the letter written by our country's president to Saddam and said: What the respected president said in his worthy and dignified historic letter to the Iraqi president comes from our announced position and our principles. We have proven that, more than anything else, we depend on our belief, our resistance, and the people's support. It is up to us never, never to rest easy when it comes to the plots of the Unites States; the biggest aggressor in the 20th century in Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Grenada, Panama, Nicaragua and lately Saudi Arabia where, with the biggest troop deployment since World Wars I and II, it has caused tension in the region, wants to strengthen its position in the Persian Gulf, and wants to move its military bases from Europe to the Middle East.

He then talked about some of the advice given by the imam in this regard and said: We must always remember the dear imam's outrage in this matter. He said: I hereby warn the European and American troops to leave the Persian Gulf before it is too late and before they fall into the pit of death. It will not always be the case that our airliner is downed by your ships. It is possible that the children of the revolution may sink your frigates to the depths of the Persian Gulf."

With regard to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the speaker said: We are certain that Iraq will not reach its goals with the invasion of Kuwait just as it did not reach its goals with Iran. Its anti-American and anti-Israeli mask will also not go very far. We will not forget that he is one of the strongest supporters of the Israeli Michel 'Awn against the dear Hizballah in Lebanon. It was he who wrongly had an anti-American face at the beginning of the war.

He continued by saying: In this connection it is up to us, with the leadership of Ayatollah Khamene'i, to strengthen our defensive capabilities, to boost our morale and to increase our holy purpose to fight against the United States, to remove trouble from the region, to mobilize the brave men of Islamic Iran, equip the armed forces, and be wary. We must know that as the imam said—may God expedite his passage to paradise—Zionists, the United States and the Soviet Union will be after us to sully our religious dignity and identity. Iraq has now created a diversion by invading Kuwait, causing the widespread military presence of the United States throughout the region which will ultimately deliver a blow against the movement of pure Islam in favor of the interests of the United States and its allies.

The people's deputy from Babolsar and Band-pey, because of the sensitivity of the region, considered it necessary to have unity under the leadership of the guardian of the affairs of Muslims and said: At this sensitive time, with the widespread presence of the enemy in the region and the aggressive plot of the United States and Israel against pure Islam and the Iranian Islamic revolution, the element of unity and a steadfastness of the ranks under the leadership of the leader of the revolution is more necessary than ever before. Any sound of dissent—from whomever or wherever it may come—which will cause the weakening of the regime and the government, which is supported by the leader, which will strengthen the American and liberal elements, must be firmly confronted. By creating sincerity and closeness in the hearts of the great people, by following the laws, with special help from God in the major test of elections to the Council of Experts, we will, as before, come out victorious with dignity.

At the end he gave some details about his constituency to the officials.

Sadeq Khalkhali, deputy from Qom. He commented on the return of the POW's to the Islamic homeland and expressed dissatisfaction at the actions of the Voice and Vision in this regard.

He added: The welcome was so amazing that one can only compare it to the welcome given to the imam when he returned. From Qasr-e Shirin to Kermanshah, people had brought their sheep and cows to sacrifice for the POW's.

He continued by remarking on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and said: Saddam has committed aggression and he has to back down, there is no doubt about that. He was the aggressor for 10 years, and we shouted about it, but the United States found excuses for the issues. But now because Iraq has invaded Kuwait, they are saying the Iraqis are aggressors. Is there anyone to ask the United States and Mr. Bush what business they have to be in this region? Why is it that wherever there is an issue, you want to come there and sow the seeds of plots and misery? Your crimes in Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, the occupied territories, Nicaragua, Grenada and more recently in Panama, are quite clear. Now you want to stop aggression?

Addressing the leaders of the United States he said: Your example is like that of a prostitute who tells others that they are violating laws of morality. All this aggression is committed by Israel and you approve of them and you veto all resolutions. Who do you think you are? In this issue it has become clear that Mr. Fahd is really a slave of Mr. Bush and the United States. He is not the protector of the holy mosques. He is the protector and servant of Mr. Bush and the United States. If he had any dignity and any roots among the people, he would have defended himself.

The speaker added: The United States wants to have a foothold in the region. I announce clearly that the mecca and medina which the Americans want to support, are not really Mecca and al-Medinah, but rather houses full of pagan gods. The people of Iraq at the time of World I and in 1914 started their struggle against the British and put them through misery. They created mass graves for the British. Now Mr Bush is not learning a lesson from history. They brought back hundreds of thousands of corpses from Vietnam and elsewhere and they buried them at Arlington cemetary and in other places in the United States. Now it becomes clear that Mr. Bush has designated another graveyard for American soldiers.

The people of Iraq know how to give a reply to these corrupt leaders. These are empty drums and paper tigers and have no value. The Iranian people must make themselves ready for such a day. All this saber-rattling is not just for Iraq, it is also for the Iranian people.

Mr. Khalkhali added: I am surprised at some people who want to invite to Iran the Shaykh of Kuwait, who has no title and no homeland. Who are you afraid of? Who do you want to bribe? What is this policy of wanting to invite the Shaykh of Kuwait who has been thrown out? The Shaykh of Kuwait and the al-Sabah are the same people who supported Iraqi soldiers for years and they used to bark against us the loudest. Have we lost our way? Have we lost our imam's way? Let us learn from the past and let us not make ourselves prisoners of plots.

In another section of his speech the deputy from Qom commented on an article in one of Tehran's morning newspapers and said: Mr. Bagher 'Alavi has written an article. This Bagher 'Alavi also uses the name Rashidi Motlaq. The situation has become so bad that now I have to defend the name of Ayatollah Montazeri and say that he believes in Islam. If he deviates, you must say so, but otherwise what is this article you have written—especially in a newspaper that is linked with the leader? I am sure that the leader has no idea about this article. Why does it have to be this way?

Sadeq Khalkhali—deputy from Qom:

The welcome given to the freed POW's was so amazing that it can only be compared to the welcome given to the imam—may God expedite his passage to paradise.

Mr. Khalkhali continued: The banner of being a source of emulation—those who are qualified to be sources of emulation [marja'iyat]—has always been carried by those who have felt the pain of religion. Otherwise it is not the case that whoever speaks Arabic or whoever reads sermons can be a source of emulation. The imam—may God expedite his passage to paradise—told Mr. Montazeri: Go and become a man of religion so that the people and the regime can use your knowledge. Is to use someone's knowledge to say bad things about him to say that he deviates? To use someone means to emulate him. Why are we hitting here and there? Why do we lower our own dignity? Why do we have to destroy our dignity?

With regard to the areas hit by the earthquake he said: The areas affected by the earthquake have a lot of issues. They need money, they need help. The government and the respected president are stressing the matter, but it is most important for the people themselves to get busy rebuilding, with help given by the government.

At the end he expressed hope that there will be good days ahead, that Iraq will pull out of Kuwait so that the fate of Kuwait will be determined by its own people and a general vote.

Mahmud Astaneh—people's deputy from Sarband:

Mr. Bush should know that the Iranian people regard the United States as the number one enemy of Islamic countries and that the security of the Persian Gulf has nothing to do with the United States.

Mr. Astaneh from the constituency of Sarband and Shazand was the fourth and last pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles. He started his speech by thanking God for the recent victory, sent his greetings to the holy spirit of the Imam and conveyed his greetings to the respected leader.

He added: Oh, you freed man, you who have been patient, you who have seen Karbala, welcome. May your victory be long-lasting and may the path of our martyrs have many followers.

Death to America and shame on the rulers of Al Sa'ud who have placed that holy land under the control of the aggressive Americans.

He continued by saying: Now, those who fanned the flames of war against the Islamic revolution are themselves burning in their own flames of evil. Each is blaming the other for the aggression. George Bush, the chief of the aggressors, with a black background, talks about justice and freedom, as though he did not know what kinds of crime he and his men have committed. Perhaps they have forgotten the aggression against Vietnam and Korea, but they remember well the aggression and invasion of Grenada and Panama and the aggression against the Persian Gulf: the downing of an airliner with 300 passengers; the aggression against the desert in Tabbas; the attack on Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf: repeated attacks by them and their treacherous ally, Britain, against the Persian Gulf, Saudi Arabia, and dozens of other cases. They have not forgotten their sell-out help for Saddam's aggression against Iran and encouragement of the reactionary Arab countries in their help for Saddam. Mr. Bush should know that the Iranian people regard the United States as the Islamic countries' number-one enemy and that the Persian Gulf has nothing to do with the United States. We also know very well that the Great Satan, the United States, pursues expansionism to spread and extend its own illegitimate interests. It has never felt sorry for Saudi Arabia or what it calls justice. What is certain is that NATO, following the fall of the Eastern front, or communism, is not as effective as before, and its presence in the Persian Gulf is for another purpose. With one look at the map we can easily see that the aim of the United States is Islam and the Islamic revolution. Now, with this horrific aggression, the lands from the Nile to the Euphrates are the roaming grounds of American and Zionist forces. When the leaders of the aggressive United States announce that they will stay in Saudi Arabia for years to come; this means control over oil resources and the wealth of the Muslim peoples and the Islamic lands and preparing the groundworks for drawing new borders for a greater Israel.

He added: Some foreign radios ask who Iran would choose if the choice were between Iraq and the United States. To answer these ignorant people we must say that Iran's people and government, under the leadership of our leader, will act on the politico-religious last will and testament of their holy imam. He said: "All rise up under the glorious banner of Islam and rally to defend the oppressed of the world against the enemies of Islam, and go forth toward an Islamic government with free and independent republics. By achieving that, you will put all the aggressors of the world in their place.

He continued by thanking the president and the Supreme National Security Council, saying: The history of Iran and Iraq's negotiations over Arvand Rud started in 1922 with the intervention of the British when the 1884 (Erzerum) Accord was unilaterally declared void to the advantage of Iraq. It continued in the years 1925, 1932, 1935, 1937, 1958, 1960, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1988, and finally 1990, each time dominated by the weaknesses and strengths of each government. It is hoped that this time there will be such built-in security in the agreement that we will not have to witness the bitter events of the past.

He recalled: The imam said—may his spirit be with God—that under all conditions the country's defense capability must be at the best possible level. So it is up to us to realize this goal and to use, to the best of our ability, the experiences gained during the imposed war. We must know that obeying the law is only possible when you have power, and that this power must be used to fight for God.

Text of the discussions:

A report on the second round of discussions of the administrative and personnel commission with regard to the bill for the Ministry of Health and Health Education's hiring laws was the first item on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Majles. The main bill and its footnotes were passed by the deputies as follows:

Item: Keeping in mind Article 9 of the administrative laws of the Ministry of Health and Health Education, from the date this law is passed official, fixed or permanent personnel of the aforementioned ministry and its affiliated organizations, with the exception of the welfare organization, will be under the jurisdiction of the nation's hiring laws [civil service laws]

Footnote one—Members of the science faculty at medical universities will be under the jurisidiction of the hiring charter, its additions and footnotes, of the science faculty of Tehran University. Employees of related companies which have been formed in accordance with legal regulations will be under the jurisdiction of the government civil service hiring laws passed on 26 May 1973.

Footnote two—The executive order for this law and the handling of personnel matters will carried out by the Ministry of Health and Health Education, approved by the national personnel and administration office and passed by the cabinet.

Footnote three—If the basic pay and bonus of the civil servants to whom this law applies—following their adjustment to the laws governing personnel matters in the country or regulations governing government organizations—is less than their base pay plus bonus, the difference will be paid to them as an adjustment on top of their base pay and bonus. Any raises or bonuses received by these civil servants will be deducted from the difference in pay mentioned above.

The second item on the agenda was a discussion by the commission for councils and internal affairs of a bill to estabish 33 towns and 23 villages, to add a footnote to article four, and to correct article 13 of the law dealing with descriptions and general practices of national decisions. It was suggested by the deputies that this bill be shelved for six months; this was not approved by a general vote.

The third item on the agenda was the report by the agriculture and village welfare commission on the legal plan to support local cattle rearing. In this regard the reporter for the commission gave some details, but because of a shortage of time, further discussion on the issue was left until the next open session.

Paper Says Iraqi Documents Expose 'U.S. Plots'

LD1609150590 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept 16, IRNA—The Persian daily KEYHAN said Sunday that the Iraqi regime has documents to expose to the world people the U.S. plots against the countries of the Middle East and especially Washington's role in pitting Iraq in a long war against Iran. The daily said the Baghdad regime is also fully aware of the schemes of the Saudis and of the combined efforts of the United States and Egypt for helping the Zionist regime against the Muslim people of Palestine.

It said once the Baghdad regime has published those documents it will have precluded the chances of a U.S. attack against Iraq and will have also created a qualm in the protege governments of the United States in the region. KEYHAN said the publishing of the U.S. schemes against the countries of the region will threaten the colonialistic interests of the United States in the region and will "render inoperative the suppressive machinery of the (U.S.) imperialism which the U.S. has used against the wills and aspirations of the peoples of the region."

The daily said as much as the publishing of documents discovered in the former compounds of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran had exposed the U.S. plots against Iran so, too, will a similar action by the Iraqi regime serve to further expose the political schemes of the United States in the region. It said the publishing of those documents by Iraq will serve to "prepare the ground for the collapse of servile regimes in the region as well as help oust the obstrusive forces of the United States from the region."

President Addresses Azadegan POW HQ Officials

LD1809193790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Excerpts] A number of officials of the (Azadegan) headquarters in charge of POW affairs accompanied by Hojjat ol-Eslam Abu-Torabi, the responsible official of the headquarters and the freed and honored cleric, met today with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The official in charge of the headquarters for POW affairs first submitted a report, then the president of the Republic, after expressing his appreciation for the efforts of the headquarters, as well as all other organs active in POW affairs, stressed that issues related to the POW's must be followed up with special care and sensitivity, because POW's are humans who went to the war on account of their qualifications and the goodness of their nature. As such they participated in the jihad and, during their captivity, they endured the most difficult hardship. The president added: The POW's are valuable talents; everyone must be active in society in proportion to his talent, especially those who have resisted the enemy well. God will bless them with rewards for so much resistance. [passage omitted]

He then said that today we are a witness to the effects of the wisdom of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—may he be admitted to God's paradise—and that the world has now confessed to the fact that the imam was right concerning the injustice to which we were subjected. So we must benefit from past realities. [passage omitted]

Official Reviews Need for Nuclear Energy

LD1809192990 Tehran IRNA in English 1733 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 18, IRNA—Head of Iran's atomic energy organization Reza Amrollahi condemned the spirit of agggression in any form throughout the world at the 34th annual session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna today. Amrollahi who also serves as a deputy to the Iranian president, said that that in the past the governments found it hard to agree to the views of the Iranian Government in relation with many topics but that the passing of time served to demonstrate the righteousness of the Islamic Republic's stand on those issues.

He said nuclear power generation is a practice with a sure future which is now beyond the reach of many countries. The Iranian atomic energy chief said in the past years the Islamic Republic had consistently emphasized the need for developing countries to have access to nuclear energy, but that far from improving, the situation has aggrevated as far as those countries are concerned.

He said despite the efforts of the IAEA, developing countries are still deprived of the nuclear power capacity, whereas, he said, the developed countries have markedly progressed in that area. Amrollahi observed that irrespective of political considerations the passing of time and the imposition of stricter safeguards have further complicated the nuclear industry and made it a very costly project even though in some of the developing countries no political barriers exist.

He said the stop in nuclear projects of the developing countries as well as the slow tempo of the creation of that industry in those countries is primarily due to financial reasons. The Iranian official told participants that for the first time in 1974 Iran officially demanded that the Middle East be declared an area without nuclear weapons, and that the Islamic Republic continues to adhere to that general stand. He said the development of nuclear power by the Zionist regime is a principal hindrance towards that goal.

Amrollahi said the atomic energy organization of Iran continues efforts for peaceful application of nuclear energy in the Islamic Republic. The Islamic Republic of Iran in cooperation with the IAEA is to host an international conference on "natural rays" in Ramsar in the Caspian province of Gilan November 2-7. The 34th assembly of IAEA member states started here Monday and will continue through Friday.

Paper Views Continuing 'Enmity' Toward Nation

LD1809124190 Tehran IRNA in English 1032 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 18, IRNA—A morning daily Tuesday made a brief review of the eight-year-long imposed war and stressed that although the war has ended but the enmity of those who imposed it on Iran would never come to an end. 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' in its editorial entitled "the fruit of ten years of patience and resistance", noted that future aggressions of the enemies of the Islamic revolution would not be military confrontations.

Rather, the daily added, this time they would be launched in political, economic, cultural and propaganda fields. Therefore, the paper urged an overall preparedness to thwart such conspiracies. The war among other things proved the righteousness of the Iranian people and government and their commitment to ethical and humanitarian criteria, and secondly (proved) the wickedness of the united front of the foes of the Islamic revolution, added the daily.

Today, the paper noted, the truth about the war has been revealed to all after Iraq confessed it had initiated it to check the Islamic revolution and preserve interests of the West in the region. Moreover, it added, the U.S. has also confessed to the direct role it played in the war and France has admited its open support for the aggressor. However, Iran's victory in the war is a fruit of the resistance of the Iranian people who stood all hardships in the past ten years in order to materialise their rightful cause.

Holy Defense Week Program Detailed

LD1609184590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Excerpt] In accordance with instructions of the great leader [Khamene'i], the programs of Holy Defense Week will be organized more gloriously this year. Mr. Chamran, the cultural and publicity deputy of the General Command Staff, announced this during a news conference this evening. He listed the names given to the seven days of Holy Defense Week as follows:

—Saturday, 22 September, the first day of the outbreak of the imposed war, is named the Day of Readiness and Defense.
—Sunday, 23 September, the Day of Culture and Jihad.
—Monday, 24 September, the Azadegan [free people, a term given to freed POW's] Day.
—Tuesday, 25 September, the Day of Selfless Devotees and Combatants.
—Wednesday, 26 September, the Day of Reconstruction and Maintenance of Values.
—Thursday, 27 September, the Day of Martyrs and the Day of Breaking the Siege of Abadan;
—Friday, 28 September, the last day of the Holy Defense Week, is the Day of Unity and Victory. [passage omitted]

Director Says Merchant Fleet Activities Increase

LD1709174790 Tehran IRNA in English 1523 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 17, IRNA—Managing director of the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Organization (IRISO) Ahmad-Hussein Dajmar said here today that the organization forwarded 13.3 million tons of cargo to various destinations during the calendar year 1368 (21 Mar 1989 to 20 Mar 1990). He said IRISO off-loaded 12.1 million tons of cargo during the same period.

Dajmar was among a group of forwarders who were participating in an interview with media reporters. He said from March 21 until August 22 this year, IRISO off-loaded 5.3 million tons of cargo and on-loaded 6.4 million tons, that is up by 69.8 percent and 15 percent respectively as compared to the corresponding period in the previous year.

Upon triumph of the Islamic revolution in Iran in February 1979 the company had 42 cargo ships with a combined capacity of 525,000 tons, now increased to 97 ships with a combined capacity of 2,350,000 tons, said Dajmar.

Ahmad Makhmali managing director of Valfajr-8 Shipping Company who was present in the same interview said his company has six passenger ships and one cargo ship, the latter with a capacity of 1,000 tons which ferries passengers and goods between Iran's southern ports and the Persian Gulf states.

He said during the first 5-year development plan which started on March 21 this year, Valfajr-8 will purchase another five passenger and cargo ships which will substantially improve the company's operation.

Last calendar year Valfajr-8 shipping lines ferried 184,000 passengers and since March 21, 1990 (start of the year 1369) the company ferried 68,000 passengers between Persian Gulf islands and especially between Kish island and the Persian Gulf states south of the Persian Gulf. Makhmali said at the time being the Valfajr-8 shipping lines is offered nine jetties in Bandar Abbas, Bushehr and the islands of Qeshm, Lavan, Larak, Abu Musa and Kish.

K.R. Sacha managing director of Iran-India Shipping Lines said the joint shipping lines was founded with an initial capital investment of dollars 1,510,000 owned by Iran and another dollars 490,000 by India. The Iran-India shipping lines now has nine ships with a combined capacity of 27,000 tons, and has increased its capital investment to dollars 25 million, he said.

*Soviet Border Crossing Begins 15 Aug

*90AS0443G London KEYHAN in Persian
30 Aug 90 p 2*

[Text] Border traffic without visas between the border cities of Iran and the Soviet Union began on Wednesday 15 August. Arrangements for border travel have been agreed to previously by officials of Iran and the Soviet Union. Based on this agreement, residents of the border areas of both countries may cross the border with passes issued by police officials and go up to 45 kilometers into the other country. The total stay in the other country may not be longer than 15 days each time.

Iranians may take up to 30,000 rials to the Soviet Union, while Soviet citizens may take up to 300 rubles with them when they go to Iran.

Currently, Iranians are going to the Soviet Union on Sundays and Wednesdays and Soviet citizens are coming to Iran on Saturdays and Mondays.

*Opens 'New Chapter'

90AS0443I London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Aug 90 p 3

[Text] With the dispatch of 150 Iranian citizens to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics through Jalfa, a new chapter was opened in the history of border travel between the two countries. Based on a report from Tehran, in the middle of last August a group of 150 people crossed the southern Aras River bridge in Jalfa and set foot on Russian soil, and after a short stay of two weeks they returned to the country. Border crossings by border residents of the Soviet Union and Iran are being made on the basis of an accord signed recently between Moscow and Tehran. The accord provides that residents of the border areas of the Soviet Union and Iran, whether they be Iranian or Russian citizens, may travel to the other country for up to two weeks and go as far as 45 kilometers into the other country, and they may return to their country after visiting relatives, visiting tourist attractions, and doing local business. Iranian citizens are allowed to go on Sunday and Wednesday each week, Russian citizens may go on Saturday and Monday each week. Iranian and Russian border residents making these trips will not need passports or visas to cross the border. They may travel by obtaining a pass. According to customs regulations, for trips such as this, each Iranian traveler is allowed to take up to 3,000 tomans, and each Russian traveler may take up to 300 rubles.

*ABRAR Editorial on Balance of Power in Gulf

*90AS0446A Tehran ABRAR in Persian
28 Aug 90 pp 1, 12*

[Editorial by Mohammad Sarafraz: "Crisis in Region and Balance of Hostile Powers"]

[Text] In view of the fact that a relative balance has been created between the hostile powers in the regional crisis, a new phase for activity or diplomatic struggle has begun. Saddam has mobilized all his political resources to maintain the status quo, and with the help of the king of Jordan, 'Arafat, the military leader of Sudan, the president of the republic of Yemen, and then with the help of Algeria, Tunisia, and Mauritania, a political front has been opened. In the military phase, Iraq has limited the possibility of a decisive Western victory.

By transferring hundreds of Western citizens and experts to sensitive military centers, Baghdad has influenced the superiority of the American air forces and complicated its possibility of conducting extensive operations.

To prolong the existing crisis and increase its own political role, the Soviet Union probably adjusted Security Council Resolution 665, replacing America's proposal in it to "use minimum force to prevent the passage of ships to or from Iraq and Kuwait" with the expression, "adopting suitable measures at a specific time when it appears necessary." This resolution gives greater emphasis to the inspection of ships than to stopping their passage.

The Soviet Union believes in a new world order in which the world will be managed through group leadership, for which the best place is currently the United Nations. The Soviet Union has apparently reached this conclusion, and now that they have been unable to continue to lead the Eastern Bloc nations through the bi-polar system, they would like to keep a share for themselves in the group leadership of the world. Therefore, if the continuation of the crisis in the region will assist with this principle, they will spare no effort!

At the same time, the secretary-general of the United Nations is to meet in Jordan on Thursday with the Iraqi foreign minister to seek a political solution, while America and England have rejected any kind of talks with Iraq as long as it occupies Kuwait.

Talks with Iraq while this country's forces are closing the foreign embassies in Kuwait one after another is in the interest of the Baghdad regime. An Arab solution without returning the al-Sabah family to Kuwait will lead to the establishment of a hand-picked Iraqi government in this country. The personal measures taken by Mr. de Cuellar could include a solution between the ones wished for by Iraq and America. The proposals and measures taken by the secretary general of the United Nations will succeed if two conditions are met. The first one is if it is supported by the permanent members of the Security Council who have the power of the veto, and the second is if the two hostile sides accept the proposals. If the West does not accept a government other than that of the al-Sabah family, the crisis will erupt again.

In the few months it can hold out against the economic embargo, Iraq probably hopes to gain the following concessions:

To bring Arab public opinion close to it, to remove every kind of sign and trace of an independent country in Kuwait, and to form a new front of the countries that are not in practice part of the economic embargo, and bring them with it. However, as long as Iraqi propaganda is not aimed at Israel, the possibility of success in the above instances is limited.

America appears to be seeking the following objectives:

To establish its military presence in all the nations of the Persian Gulf and in reality to become the gendarme of the region. With the fall of the Ba'th regime in Iraq, it will find a new foothold in the region, control its oil, and therefore the economy of the West.

A change in only one of the elements of the crisis, or the appearance of an element that upsets the current balance could ignite a devastating war, and this is not unlikely.

*Iraq Refuses To Accept Shatt Autonomy Provision

90AS0443B London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] While the Islamic Republic is calling the acceptance of the 1975 Algiers Accord and the implementation of part of the provisions of United Nations Security Council Resolution 598 with much fanfare "the greatest victory in the history of the Islamic Republic," the disclosure of the contents of the letter dated 30 July 1990 from Saddam Husayn to Hashemi-Rafsanjani made it clear that despite its propaganda about accepting the 1975 Algiers Accord, Iraq absolutely has not abandoned its "historic right of rule" over the entire Shatt al-'Arab Waterway, but it has unilaterally agreed, while retaining its ownership of the Shatt al-'Arab, to give concessions to Iran only with regard to "navigational rights between Iraq and Iran including fishing rights, joint administration of navigation, and sharing profits thereof."

To date the Islamic Republic regime has refused to disclose the contents of this letter, and it has said nothing at all about Iraq's insistence on its claim to ownership of the entire Shatt al-'Arab Waterway. Even after Saddam Husayn sent a letter to Hashemi-Rafsanjani 12 days after the occupation of Kuwait stating clearly that he accepts the 1975 Algiers Accord only if the contents of the letter of 30 July 1990 are appended as a "completion," Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the regime's other officials refused to disclose Saddam Husayn's real intentions in his letter of 30 June [as published]. Elsewhere in this letter, Saddam Husayn stated clearly that it is Baghdad's desire to retain Iraq's historic ownership of the entire Shatt al-'Arab Waterway, that the acceptance of the Thalwog line for the use of the Shatt al-'Arab Waterway meets Tehran's demand, and that subsequent talks would be acceptable to him only in the event that all of these provisions are accepted. The disclosure of the contents of this letter will bring the Islamic Republic regime against serious difficulties before the Iranian nation.

(6) Dialogue on the Shatt al-'Arab must be conducted under the following three headings:

(A) Iraq should have complete sovereignty as a legitimate historical right.

(B) Iraq should have sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab and the Thalwog line law should be applied regarding navigational rights between Iraq and Iran including fishing rights, joint administration of navigation, and sharing profits thereof.

(C) The referral of the Shatt al-'Arab issue in arbitration according to a formula to be worked out by the two sides with each committing itself to prior abidances by its ruling. Pending the resolution of the issue through arbitration, the Shatt al-'Arab is to be cleared so as to make it fit for navigation in accordance with the formula to be decided by the two sides.

Agreement will be on the understanding that the two sides will together decide on any of the three headings listed above, considering that the first heading represents Iraq's right and that the second heading represents Iran's wish.

Part of the 30 July 1990 letter from Saddam Husayn to Hashemi-Rafsanjani, which the Islamic Republic regime kept secret from the people.

*Demonstrations Against Iran Continue in Lebanon

90AS0443J London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Aug 90 p 3

[Text] While the attention of the world's news organizations is directed at the crisis in the Persian Gulf and the possibility of a military conflict in this region, the war between the shiites of the Amal movement with the Hezbollah forces in southern Lebanon continues.

Recent clashes in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area because of the occupation of the village of Suq al-Jayshi Jarju' have intensified. The general feelings of the shiites of this area against the leaders of the Islamic Republic have been aroused and through demonstrations they are demanding the removal of Iranian revolutionary guards from southern Lebanon.

In demonstrations and ceremonies held recently in memory of Amal members killed by Hezbollah forces in the cities of the Iqlim al-Tuffah area, leaders of the Islamic government were subjected to the harshest insults.

In the memorial assembly held last Sunday, an Amal leader called the leaders of the Islamic Republic "murderers" who are trying to sow discord among shiites, spill the blood of young shiites, and destroy the future for the shiites of Lebanon. On the same day, demonstrations were held against the leaders of the Islamic government in several shiite cities.

Finally the open insults and abuse against the leaders of the Islamic Republic regime prompted officials of this regime's embassy in Beirut to respond in kind. In a sharp statement issued last Thursday afternoon in Beirut it said:

"Some well-known leaders of the Amal movement who claim to follow the line of Emam Musa Sadr and who call themselves children of Emam Khomeyni (may God be pleased with him) and the Islamic Republic of Iran, are continuing their hostile behavior with useless and scandalous insults. Therefore, these kinds of deviating positions are condemned and rejected by the Islamic Republic and Iran's officials."

"Such people insist on repeating lies, inciting public opinion against Iran, and slandering the officials of the Islamic Republic, which only benefits the Zionist enemy Israel."

"They are therefore invited to come to their senses and take account of the dangerous consequences of their words and deeds before it is too late, and put an end to such propaganda attacks."

Over the past seven months clashes in Iqlim al-Tuffah have cost hundreds of lives of area residents and combatants on both sides. It is not yet clear whether the Islamic Republic will remove its revolutionary guards from Lebanon.

*Direct Flights To Connect Tehran, Muscat

90AS0443N London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Aug 90 p 4

[Text] With the establishment of direct flights between the Islamic Republic and Oman, the two capitals will be linked by air. Based on the accord pertaining to air cooperation between the Islamic Republic and Oman, recently signed in Muscat, airlines of Iran and Oman will soon resume direct flights between Tehran and Muscat. The accord in question was signed in Muscat in the middle of last August by 'Ali Mohammad Nuriyan, deputy minister of roads and transportation and chief of the National Airline Organization, and 'Amman Salim Bin-'Ali al-Siyabi, his Omani counterpart. After returning to Tehran, the Islamic Republic's deputy minister of roads and transportation announced that the establishment of these lines will help expand travel between the two countries by their citizens and will also increase the volume of commerce between the Islamic Republic and the Sultanate of Oman.

Concurrent with the announcement of the establishment of direct air links between Tehran and Muscat, the general manager of the Islamic Republic Shipping Company also announced that the Bushehr Passenger Line to Qatar will also begin soon.

This official, who had gone to the northern part of the country to take part in an administrative seminar, told news correspondents that at the present time 75 percent of the goods the nation needs come in through maritime routes and are carried by the Ports and Shipping Organization. To expand commercial activity in the Caspian Sea, the number of ships operating in this sea is to be increased.

In his talk, the general manager of the Islamic Republic Shipping Company said: Since the Islamic revolution about nine million tons of goods have been unloaded at the ports of Nowshahr and Anzali, of which six million were unloaded at Anzali and three million were unloaded at Nowshahr.

The official added: A contract has been signed with Finland to build two ships, one of which will be delivered in the month of Mehr this year [23 September-22 October], the other by the end of next year [20 March 1992].

*Intense Fighting Continues in Kordestan

90AS0443C London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] The Kurdish Democratic Party issued a bulletin on 26 Mordad (17 August) announcing sharp clashes in Kordestan.

In the bulletin from the Kurdish Democratic Party were reports of several sharp clashes in the following areas:

- The Kermanshah-Sanandaj road
- The Shapiran Salmas area
- The vicinity of the villages of Dustani and Sharvani
- From Mirjadeh Sardasht to Piranshahr
- The Rabt Area
- In the vicinity of the villages of Dowlehtu and Kurehshir

The same report states that in these clashes a large number of revolutionary guards and members of the revolutionary guard corps were killed. It included the names of 37 of the individuals killed and 24 of those who were taken prisoner, with the names of their units. The names of three members of the Kurdish Democratic Party who were killed were also announced.

In this clash significant quantities of light and heavy weapons were taken by fighters of the Kurdish Democratic Party.

*Increase in Bread Price Prompts Fighting

90AS0443F London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] The sudden increase in the price of lavash bread in Tehran has led to numerous brawls in various parts of the city of Tehran. The price of a loaf of lavash bread in Tehran went up five rials without notice, and the people, angered by the increase in the price of bread, fought with bakery workers in many parts of Tehran. To justify the high price of bread, an official of the Tehran Baker's Union said: Each ball of dough for lavash bread was to increase from 180 grams to 250 grams, and the price was also to increase five rials, but the bakeries only increased the price, without increasing the weight.

Fighting between the people and the bakers, especially in the relatively poor areas in east and south Tehran, was severe and extensive. On Samangan and Mehran streets, for example, the police were forced to intervene.

To date, the Islamic Republic regime has prevented increases in the price of bread by whatever means possible, because expensive bread, which is the food of the middle and lower classes, could create serious problems and social disturbances.

*Joint Project To Construct Steel Complex

90AS0443M London KEYHAN in Persian
30 Aug 90 p 4

[Text] With joint investment by the Islamic Republic and a Japanese company, a steel production complex is to be built on Qeshm Island in the Persian Gulf. The Islamic Republic will pay 60 percent of the investment necessary to build this industrial complex, and the Japanese company is committed to procuring the remaining 40 percent. 'Ali Shams-Ardekani, the Islamic Republic's deputy minister for economic affairs of the Ministry of Mines and Metals, who was recently appointed chief of the Qeshm free industrial zone, announced that construction of the Qeshm Island Steel Complex will begin on 11 February this year, and he explained that based on the program planned, construction of this complex will take 30 months. The official told correspondents: The Qeshm Island Steel Complex will market its products two and a half years after construction begins, and in this way it will be ahead of the Mobarakeh Steel Complex, after 10 years of investment.

Shams-Ardekani told media representatives that the creation of a free industrial zone on Qeshm Island is part of the program to create three free zones approved in the First National Economic and Social Expansion Plan. He added: The industries now planned for this island include steel manufacture, the production of petrochemical materials, and steel alloy and aluminum parts.

The deputy minister of mines and metals said the expected costs of the projects needed for Qeshm in the first phase are up to $15 billion, and he announced that these projects include road networks, a rail line, a port, housing units, health care, cultural and university centers, communications facilities, water, electricity, and hotels. Shams-Ardekani noted that the industries planned for construction on Qeshm Island need tremendous investments, and that these industries would recover the investments made from the sale of products.

In part of his press conference, the official said: In the first phase several other large industrial projects are planned, including the steel parts construction factory, the aluminum industries parts construction factory, and a large steel complex with Italian participation, and several other factories.

*Religious Offices Eliminated From Universities

90AS0443D London KEYHAN in Persian
30 Aug 90 pp 1, 8

[Text] The offices of the Islamic societies, the offices of the clergy in the universities, and the offices of the University Jihad [crusade], whose irresponsible intervention in the affairs of the universities and institutions of higher learning has caused disorder and upset students, professors and leaders of the nation's universities and upper schools are being eliminated, and they are being cut out of the university environments.

Dr. Mostafa Mo'in, the Islamic Republic regime's minister of culture and higher education, announced last week that from now on the "principle of the responsibility of the university president for all issues and the non-intervention by organizations in executive affairs will receive special attention," and the revision of the current guidelines for management of universities no later than three months from now will prevent intervention by these kinds of irresponsible organizations.

The current university management guidelines, which were approved in 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984], eliminated the independence of the university presidents in administering their affairs.

Dr. Mo'in emphasized the method of administering university affairs in the period before the revolution and criticized the elimination of the financial independence of the universities in the period of the Islamic Republic regime. He said:

"Before the revolution the universities were financially independent, and after the triumph of the revolution the Revolutionary Council made them subject to government public, administrative, and financial regulations. He added: In view of the academic and educational essence of the universities, in some cases they demand immediate measures and the universities must have the necessary independence."

He emphasized that the University Trustees Council must be formed again so that university affairs would be managed better.

The formation of the University Trustees Council on the model established before the Islamic Republic regime requires the financial independence of the universities, and a bill has now been prepared and submitted to the Majles to change the appropriate guidelines.

The necessity of forming the University Trustees Council was approved three years ago by the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution, but without financial independence in the universities, the formation of the University Trustees Council could not be truly effective.

The regime's minister of culture and higher education said that to make these changes and centralize management in the hands of the university presidents, it will be necessary to examine and revise the charters of the offices of clerical representatives in the universities, the university jihad, and the Student Islamic Society.

He also acknowledged that the shortage of professors has been a factor holding back progress in university affairs.

In Tehran it is being said that although it is still not clear to what extent the Islamic Republic regime's undertaking to purge the environment of the universities and the institutions of higher learning of organizations, Islamic societies, and preachers will be successful, its announcement by the minister of culture and higher education shows that the regime cannot see any further disruption and disorder in the universities.

The existence of representative offices from all the various preacher and Hezbollah organizations and the various student Islamic organizations in all the university environments over the past 10 years has completely eliminated the possibility of freedom of action by university presidents and professors, and although the university presidents are in a way more closely affiliated with the regime, they themselves were unhappy and complained about interference by preachers who had installed a special representative office in every college, and especially about inappropriate interference by student Islamic societies, such as that of the Office to Strengthen and Restore Unity.

The members of the Office to Strengthen and Restore Unity, who are supporters of Karrubi and Mohtashemi, in the last year even crowded the other student societies, and they disrupted speeches by some of the regime's agents, such as 'Abd Khodayi, a Majles deputy (a terrorist who had tried to kill Dr. Hoseyn Fatemi, the foreign minister in Dr. Mossadeq's government).

On various pretexts, the Islamic Societies and the preachers established in the universities have made trouble for the students and professors, and have added to the unrest in the universities. As a result, the universities already straining with the shortage of classes and space, the lack of laboratory facilities, and the lack of trained professors, have suffered further from intervention by agents in societies and offices of this kind.

One of the factors keeping trained professors out of the universities, which has led to a severe decline in the level of university education, is the very unhealthy state of the university environment. Currently the nation's universities and the institutions of higher learning are faced with a severe shortage of trained professors, so that ordinary graduates from universities outside the country are assigned teaching positions in the universities without the slightest amount of teaching experience. Some of these educated people are even sent to the universities to teach while serving their military obligation.

The shortage of professors in Iran is such that some teachers with experience teaching in the middle schools are even sent to teach in the universities.

It is expected that if the preachers, the Islamic societies, and the revolutionary organizations are really cut out of the universities there will at least be an opening in Iran's higher educational environment due to the tranquility of the educational environment and attracting experienced professors.

Pakistan

PRC Journalists Interview President Khan

BK1909125290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said Pakistan-China represents a model of coexistence of the two countries with different ideologies, political systems, and cultural backgrounds. In an interview with Islamabad-based Chinese correspondents, he said Pakistan-China friendship based on principles is a source of confidence and encouragement in our struggle to maintain state sovereignty and national independence in the face of relentless pressures.

About the Gulf crisis, the president said aggression against any country is not acceptable. On our part, we are trying to arrive at a peaceful settlement of this problem, considering the rights of smaller as well as big nations.

Referring to Afghanistan issue, the president said Pakistan is trying to find a political solution within a framework which would restore peace and stability in Afghanistan. Turning to the domestic situation, the president reaffirmed that elections will be held on October 24th and the process of accountability will not come in the way of holding free and fair elections.

Prime Minister Stresses Military Solidarity

BK1809160990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, has said the country's Armed Forces with the whole nation behind them would not only foil any aggressive design of the enemy, but would also raise the country's prestige among peace-loving and free nations. He was addressing the concluding session of the three-day annual joint services exercise in Rawalpindi this morning. Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said that the vigilance and professionalism of the Armed Forces will continue to enable the country to defend itself during time of war and to face all threats posed to its internal security. This will consolidate national integrity and cohesion and lend strength to those engaged in efforts to uplift the poor masses. He said the two most important responsibilities of the government are to provide the weapons to the Armed Forces which will ensure the country's defense and to alleviate the plight of the silent majority of the working class who have genuine love for their faith and freedom.

The prime minister also inspected the various sophisticated weapons and equipment of the three wings of the Armed Forces. Earlier, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff committee, Admiral Iftikhar Ahmad Sirohey, commended the caliber of presentation on which very interesting and useful debate took place. Also present on the occasion were: Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub

Khan, Prime Minister's Adviser Sayed Ijlal Zaidi, and the chiefs of three wings of the Armed Forces.

Foreign Office Disowns Minister's U.S. Remarks

BK1909100090 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Sep 90 p 1

[By Ashraf Hashmi]

[Text] Islamabad, Sept. 18—Pakistan's Foreign Office has totally disowned the observations made by Interior Minister Mian Zahid Safraz about the US Ambassador Robert B. Oakley in his press conference on Monday saying that the Government of Pakistan had no intention to demand the replacement of the US Ambassador or to declare him as persona non grata.

Asked to comment on the Interior Minister's statement in which the minister accused the U.S. ambassador, for acting in totally undiplomatic manner and demanded that the U.S. administration should send here a sensible ambassador or as Mr. Oakley did not deserve to be the U.S. ambassador here, a Foreign Office spokesman termed it as personal news of the minister which he said had nothing to do with the policy of the government of Pakistan.

He said that the government of Pakistan had already taken a note of the ambassador's statement. The American Charge d'Affaires was called to Foreign Office on Sept 15, and informed about the regret and disappointment of the Government of Pakistan for the unwarranted interference made in Pakistan's internal political process by the U.S. ambassador.

The American diplomat was also informed that the Government of Pakistan was surprised at the Ambassador's remarks at the Asia Society meeting in Washington on Sept. 11 which constituted interference in the internal affairs of this country.

The spokesman said that Government reaction to the ambassador's statement was enough and there was no need to drag the matter further on. Such sensitive issues he said should be left to the Foreign Minister and all of us should desist from making them a topic of public debate.

Editorial Views Dispute Over U.S. Envoy Remarks

BK1809110390 Lahore THE NATON in English 18 Sep 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Who Is Minding the House?"]

[Text] The caretakers being a "motley crowd" drafted in haste to fulfil a constitutional obligation may not have acquired the esprit de corps that makes a group of people function collectively. And it should not be deemed odd if members of the same cabinet appear to be working at cross purposes. But there must be something seriously wrong somewhere if the caretaker Prime Minister contradicts his own Foreign Office and that too on an issue that has evoked a major controversy. Upon his return from Middle East tour, Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi dismissed the suggestion that the US Ambassador's recent comment amounted to interference in Pakistan's internal affairs. To give him the benefit of the doubt, he may not have been aware of the protest that Foreign Office had lodged a day earlier informing the US Charge d'Affaires that the Government of Pakistan considered it an unwarranted interference in the country's internal political process. Perhaps Mr Jatoi did not bother to consult his foreign affairs aides, or there was the usual communication gap.

Nevertheless, if Mr Jatoi's comment was his impulsive response, it would imply that he and the Foreign Office are operating on different wavelengths and the caretaker Prime Minister chose to ignore what constitutes "interference" by a diplomat, even though he represents a superpower. Mr Jatoi should be forgiven for his error of judgement since he was only following the established norm. No one in a position of authority or aspiring to secure one, is prone to displeasing the "distant godfather". However, Mr Jatoi's slip will only give credence to misgivings about the efficacy of the caretaker government, in particular its ability to function as a team. Is everybody on his own including the caretaker Prime Minister or there is a modicum of collective responsibility. If Mr Jatoi is minding the house as the caretaker Prime Minister, he ought to get his team's act together.

Spokesman Says Ambassador in Kuwait To Leave

BK1809154490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Pakistan has allowed its ambassador to leave Kuwait. A foreign office spokesman told Radio Pakistan's representative this evening that the talks with Iraqi authorities are continuing to airlift Pakistanis stranded in Kuwait.

Pakistan International Airlines [PIA] operated a special jumbo jet service today to bring back 400 Pakistanis stranded in Amman. PIA also operated a jumbo service between Karachi and Dhaka instead of the scheduled airbus flight to take back 100 Bangladeshi nationals to their country. These Bangladeshis along with 40 Sri Lankans had been brought to Karachi from Tehran yesterday. They had arrived in Tehran from Iraq and Kuwait. The national airline has canceled some domestic flights to cope with these extra flights.

Envoy to Pakistan Views Gulf Scene, Iraqi Ties

LD1809181490 Tehran IRNA in English 1523 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Islamabad, Sep. 18, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Javad Mansuri on Tuesday castigated the intrustion of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf as a "long term plot against the interests of regional people." Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Mansuri said "The presence of U.S. and other Western forces in the Persian Gulf region is not for solving the Kuwaiti issue, rather, it serves in increasing tension and threats."

In any case, he reiterated all outside forces should leave the region. The Iranian ambassador also called for the pull-out of Iraqi troops from Kuwait, saying "We do not recognize the occupation of any country and therefore Kuwait's independence should be restored."

He, however, expressed hope that war would not break out in the Persian Gulf and the current problems could be solved through political negotiations. Asked about the possibility of Iran sending foodstuffs and medicines to Iraq, Mansouri replied "We are committed to the U.N. resolutions (on economic sanctions against Iraq), and economic and political conditions do not allow such aid."

On Baghdad's rapprochement with the Islamic Republic, he said "Iraq should take elaborate measures if it is to expand mutual ties." He listed a complete POW swap, demarcation of all border points, return of the last remaining hijacked Iranian airplane in Baghdad (the other two were returned over the past week) and arrangements for re-opening diplomatic missions in Tehran and Baghdad, as some of the measures the Iraqi side should take. On the Islamic Republic's role in helping trace out Westerners missing in Lebanon, Mansouri made it clear "The Islamic Republic has nothing to do with hostage-taking in Lebanon," and has made efforts to help trace out Westerners in that country. He was optimistic that according to a pledge undertaken by Lebanese groups, a number of westerners "may be released in the days ahead."

Afghan Mujahidin To Help Defend Saudi Arabia

LD1909082890 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0512 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Kabul, Sep. 18, BAKHTAR—It is quite amazing that the Afghan opposition groupings has promised sending 2000 of their men to Saudi Arabia under the pretext of probable attack by Iraq on Saudi Arabia, reported international news media.

Apparently the leaders of Peshawar-based groupings claim that as if they send their forces to Saudi Arabia to defend the haramain sharifain [two holy mosques] but the crux of the matter is that the leadership of multinational forces sent to Saudi Arabia is undertaken by American generals. [sentence as received] Thus, the 2000 Afghan opposition to Saudi Arabia undoubtedly work under the leadership of American forces.

This is actually an expression of solidarity and goodwill by the Afghan opposition with Saudi Arabia and the United States but a great number of the Muslim of the world including the Muslims of Afghanistan are opposing with the presence of the US forces in Mecca. In this connection a reporter of daily FRANKFURTER of West Germany writes that Pakistan which has sent its soldiers to join the international forces to safeguard the soil of Saudi Arabia aims at expressing its solidarity with the West.

The reporter of West Germany adds that Pakistan wants to appear in the face of a fateful advocate of American interests and an organiser power in the region. Pakistan thus wants to obtain further military assistance from the United States in sending its soldiers to Saudi Arabia, so the Afghan opposition follow the footsteps of their foreign masters vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis.

Energy Conservation Drive Closes Gas Stations

BK1409165690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1229 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Sep 14 (AFP)—Gas stations in Pakistan were closed Friday as part of a government drive to conserve energy amid a fuel shortage caused by the ongoing gulf crisis, witnesses said. The closure, the first in the country's history, follows a government decision this week that fuel stations would observe a weekly holiday on Fridays to conserve energy and make up for the oil shortfall resulting from Iraq's annexation of Kuwait.

Gas stations in all cities and towns will remain closed for 24 hours from 7:00 A.M. Friday to 7:00 A.M. Saturday. Officials however said facilities at highways have been exempted from the ban for long haulage vehicles. The closure came into effect with little publicity, causing problems for consumers. Officials said Pakistan was feeling a serious pinch from the gulf crisis after its Kuwaiti source, catering to 40 per cent of the country's oil needs at concessional rates, was depleted.

Pakistan has not responded to President Saddam Husayn's offer of free oil to Third World countries, having already committed 5,000 troops for the defence of Iraq's adversary, Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

Two Courts To Hear All House Dissolution Cases

BK1509162890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] A full bench of the Supreme Court in Rawalpindi today allowed the consolidated hearing of six constitutional petitions at the Lahore High Court and the Sindh High Court. The Balochistan High Court and Peshawar High Court cases challenging dissolution of the National Assembly now stand transferred to the Sindh High Court, Karachi and Lahore High Court for hearing on the 17th and 18th of this month. The court further ordered that the Federation of Pakistan should bear the involved expenses of travel and stay of the parties in the Peshawar and Quetta cases. The chief justice had observed earlier that a sense of accommodation and wisdom must prevail so that the matter regarding hearing of the petitions was resolved through consensus.

Editorial on Ishaq Khan's Assurance on Elections

BK1709104390 Lahore THE NATION in English 17 Sep 90 p 11

[Editorial: "President's Reassurance]

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's reassurance that "business remains as usual" should ostensibly put an end to persistent rumours that "something big" is in the offing. Almost identical whishpers had been heard prior to the "August 6 action", and ironically the then government did not appear to be seized of the impending reversal of political fortunes. But Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, unlike Ms Benazir Bhutto, appears to be in command and should know what he is talking about. He has reiterated the resolve to hold the elections according to schedule. "No excuse will be found for their postponement," he said. He has dismissed the possibility of any change in the caretaker administration. And he has justified the slow pace of accountability on the plea that a judicial process cannot be undertaken in haste. But, perhaps the most pertinent pronouncement of the President was his reaffirmation of "honourable intentions" vis-a-vis the authenticity of the electoral exercise. He disclaimed any designs to keep one or two parties out of the arena and said that the "administration was not concerned which party gets the majority".

Given the complexion and the policies hitherto followed by the caretaker government, there has been a genuine concern that all the participants in the polls may not be given even-handed treatment. The leaders of the erstwhile ruling party, including the former Prime Minister, have time and again questioned the bonafides of the August 6 action alleging that the whole exercise has been designed to keep their party out of power. The validity of the Presidential action, however, is a sub judice matter and the courts will give their verdict in due course of time. Nevertheless, it is imperative to ensure that the electoral process is seen as a fair exercise and no party has cause to complain that it was being discriminated against. Hopefully President Ghulam Ishaq's timely assurance that the electoral arena is open for all and the popular mandate will be honoured without reservations, will allay the fears of "foulplay" and give the election campaign the impetus it seems to be lacking on account, of the climate of uncertainty.

Balochistan Police Foil Arms Smugglers

BK1409154390 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 14 Sep 90 p 12

[Text] Quetta, Sept 13—Balochistan Crimes Branch Police foiled an attempt to smuggle a large quantity of arms and ammunition and arrested one gun runner. Inspector General police Qamar Alam on a tip constituted a special squad of Crimes Branch Police led by Inspector Yaqub Butt. The squad intercepted a vehicle at Killi Qasim in Dlabandin area of Chagai district adjacent to Afghanistan border.

The search of the vehicle led to the recovery of large quantity of arms and ammunition including 303 rifles, hand grenades and tens of thousands of bullets. An Afghan national whose name was kept secret was also arrested. Further investigations were underway by the Crimes Branch Police.

Provincial Intelligence Seizes Heroin in Karachi

BK1409160590 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 14 Sep 90 p 5

[Text] Karachi, Sept. 13—The staff of the Provincial Intelligence Bureau, Excise and Taxation Department, Sindh recovered huge quantity of heroin worth Rs. [rupees] 26 crore and apprehended one person, namely Abdul Samad S/o Abdul Rauf [name as published] who was carrying 26 kgs. heroin powder from Mauripur Road West.

The raid was conducted under the specific directive of Sindh Minister for Excise and Taxation, Mir Mumtaz Ali Talpur whose standing orders are to eliminate the menace of narcotics.

According to the details, on information the Provincial Intelligence Bureau officials came to know that a gang of narcotic smugglers was trying to export huge quantity of heroin powder and for this purpose they have already dumped a sizeable quantity of fine quality heroin powder in Karachi.

The provincial intelligence officer, Mr. Mumtaz Ahmed Hanafi formed a team which after one month's hectic efforts arrested one person, named Abdul Samad So/o Abdul Rauf who was carrying 26 kg. heroin powder in the Suzuki Alto car No. KAP 3076 model 1990, from Mauripur Road, Karachi West.

The heroin powder seized, is of finest export quality, which is worth 26 crore rupees in the international market. Investigation in the case is going on and more recoveries and arrests are expected.